



# The Second Section



Minutes from February 26, 2009 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., February 26, 2009, in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, Pa. The meeting is the rescheduled meeting from February 19, which was postponed due to inclement weather.

Attending were Dennis Mead, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Larry Johnson, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Larry Smith, Dan Higham, and Ed Ferguson.

### *Treasurer's Report*

The Treasurer's report was submitted via email by Ed Cronin. The report contained the account balance after noted expenses. Also, it was noted that the insurance coverage is being switched to the Erie Insurance Co.

### *Old Business - Property & Equipment*

Work sessions to lay the ties, rail, and ballast will be coming soon. Volunteers will be needed. Contact Dennis Mead or Jack Sheets to confirm your availability.

Ed Cronin and Dennis Mead are planning to visit Bob Callahan and the Ashtabula Carson & Jefferson Railroad to find out

the time frame as to when the preparations will begin so the #518 can be shipped to Meadville. A discussion is planned on possibly renting a crane with the AC&J to remove the prime mover, generator and switch the trucks, and possibly load the engine. The shell will need to be power washed and prepared for painting.

The board voted at the January meeting to decline accepting the reefer from the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society.

The LSRHS donated a signal mast to the FCVRRHS, for the purpose of mounting a signal head donated by the FCVRRHS member, Jim Cray.

It is planned to donate a monetary sum to the LSRHS in appreciation of their donation. The funds may go toward repainting their newly acquired GE 25 ton locomotive.

The signal head needs repairs and repainting before mounting on the mast.

### *Old Business - Special Events/Programs*

The Special Events & Programs committee will need a new committee chairman. Dan Higham is relinquishing the position. If anyone is interested, contact Dennis Mead.

### *Old Business - Museum*

An article was read on an amendment to ban stimulus payments to museums, and sponsored by a representative from Oklahoma. The bill, Amendment #175, can be read on the website at [www.rypn.org/forum](http://www.rypn.org/forum).

The most recent museum board meeting was in the autumn of 2008. The board voted to have members dues to be more self-supporting.

After waiting for grants for the museum, it was noted that no funds were available at the current time.

There is still interest in the 84 Lumber Co. site. The price is still in the higher six digit range. If cash were available, a lower price might be able to be negotiated.

### *Old Business - Public Relations/Education*

Bill McComas is looking for more items to add to the upcoming newsletter, "The Valley Express". A committee article, and a message from the president have been submitted for the newsletter.

A list of updates was sent to the webmaster, Jonathan Clark. The website is located at [www.fcvrrhs.org](http://www.fcvrrhs.org). The updates will be incorporated as soon as Jon has time.

### *Old Business - Model Railroad*

A DCC seminar was held at the Christ Episcopal Church on the evening of February 9, 2009. Fifteen registered to attend the seminar, hosted by Miles and Fran Hale, who are professional model builders.

A description of seven DCC systems was given, as well as a commentary on the differences between DCC and DC operations. The Hales answered questions afterward, along with the opportunity to experiment with each system.

Special thanks to Tom Collard for opening up the hall of the church for this event.

### *Old Business - Membership*

The FCVRRHS welcomes two new members. Stephen "Scott" Wilson of Oil City and Dan Leech of Meadville. The organization now rosters fifty members.

### *New Business - Special Events & Programs*

The Lake Shore Railway Historical Society of North East, Pa. is planning a dinner for Saturday, April 18, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. in the American Legion Hall in North East. The scheduled speaker is Preston Cook, noted EMD author and former ELHS president. Seating is limited to 100 people. If interested, contact Ray Grabowski of the LSRHS.

Jack Sheets has investigated

several possible events for Railroad Days, tentatively scheduled for 2010. Jack talked to Jim Dickerson of Medina, NY. Mr. Dickerson's company rents out a replica of Thomas the Tank Engine. It was noted that this version of Thomas is not an actual locomotive. The price is \$210,000 in advance. All preparations and operations are done by the company's employees.

The other party Jack looked into was Jones Party Magic of Franklin, Pa. They have a miniature nine car train to ride, using a Case tractor for power. The train does not ride on rails, and was the same train used at the Conneaut Lake Pumpkinfest. The train can haul 12 to 18 people per ride. The price is \$600 for four hours, plus a \$40 delivery charge.

### *New Business - Property/Equipment*

The summer schedule for the opening of the caboos uses the same timetable as 2008. The caboos will be open on Sundays, beginning with Memorial Day and continuing to Labor Day, with some exceptions for holiday weekends and special appointments.

Dan Higham noted the former trolley station in Cambridge Springs may soon come under the ownership of the Crawford County Historical Society. It is possible the station may be a

display site for the layout.

Ken Hough's ITC Crane is now located in Butler, PA. ITC had lifted the caboos from a storage track onto a lowboy trailer, then onto the current display track.

In a side discussion, it was noted that Trailer Train has flatcars built to handle heavy loads such as locomotives. This may be an option to haul the #518 up to Meadville. Also noted, was that the WNYP and AC&J are both part of Norfolk Southern's Affiliate Program, where the two railroads can transport between them, using NS, at a reduced freight rate.

### *New Business - Historical / Archives*

Jack Sheets had the donated Erie Railroad Car Inspection Certificate mounted on a foam-core board and shrink-wrapped. This should preserve the certificate for years to come.

### *New Business - Public Relations/Education*

Ken Springirth has written a new book on the Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad. The Crawford County Historical Society has twenty copies available for \$22 each.

The board discussed ordering direct from Arcadia Publishing to resell the book to raise funds.

Contact was made with Steve Bell of IMPR. Mr.

Bell quoted prices for white, natural, or ash colored t-shirts with the organization's caboose design. T-shirts with the design using other colors of the t-shirts were slightly higher. The prices include screens and delivery, according to Mr. Bell.

The board needs to look into who owns the artwork and screens and whether the FCVRRHS has the right to use the artwork. If all goes well, a decision on ordering will take place at the next meeting.

Larry Smith has JPEG files of the caboose artwork.

Jack Sheets investigated the rates of J&R Productions of Pittsburgh. Their rates are quite a bit higher than IMPR. J&R Productions produced the original order of t-shirts, and the screens may still be with them.

Jack order his own t-shirt with a design of the #518 from a local vendor for his own use.

### *New Business - Budget/Finance*

The board needs to talk with Meadville city government concerning any liability issues with having the Railroad Days in Meadville in 2010.

### *New Business - Museum*

A question concerning the location of the boundaries of

the floodplane near the display site was raised.

A discussion concerning the museum parking and facilities was held. It was noted that there probably won't be any problems as long as there isn't any digging.

### *Other New Business*

The Norfolk Southern has plans to paint an SD40 in a Super Bowl Steeler paint scheme. It probably will travel the entire system.

### *New Business - Membership*

The Rainbow Gardens train show is to be held in Erie on Sunday March 1, from 10 am to 4 pm. Dennis Mead invited anyone wishing to sell items to bring them to the show and have Ed Cronin sell them for a donation towards Ed's table fee.

Nominations for president of the FCVRRHS are needed. Al Reibel is not interested in the vice president position. Bernie Hanmore is to stay as vice president to fill out his two year term.

The annual dinner will be held the same day as the elections. A suitable restaurant needs to be found and approved.

The next board and general membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2009, at 6 p.m., at the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at

18649 Brake Shoe Road,  
Meadville, Pa.

