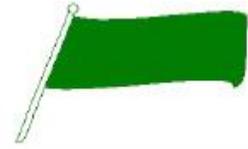


The Second Section



Minutes from the
January 15, 2009 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:02 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

Attending members were Dennis Mead, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, Dan Higham, Ed Ferguson, Pete Gifford, and Tom Collard.

Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report was respectfully submitted via e-mail by Ed Cronin. The report was read by Carl Timko in Ed's absence.

Old Business - Historical/Archives

The Historical/Archives Committee chairman, Pete Gifford, agreed to continue as chairman.

It was noted where most of the archives are stored. The availability to the archives to the organization was also discussed.

Old Business - Museum

Larry Smith is still the chairman of the Museum Committee. A possible change in venue in his employment may cause the need to name a replacement.

Larry and Ed Cronin are the trustees for the museum and Dennis Mead and Pete

Gifford are the alternates.

Old Business - Model Railroad

Tom Collard will retain his position as Model Railroad Committee chairman.

Old Business - Special Events/Programs

The board reviewed the activities from the layout display during the Christmas season, including the trainset raffle. The raffle raised \$200 for Toys for Tots. Another trainset was purchased for a future raffle.

The Railroad Roundhouse, or what it may be known as, Railroad Days, has been postponed until 2010. Planning for the event has started. It was noted that permission from the city of Meadville will be needed for some of the planned activities

A letter of thanks was recommended to be sent to the owners of the Downtown Mall, Mr. & Mrs. Moss. Their generosity allowed the display of the model railroads in a prime storefront of the mall. This spot allowed the organization to be more visible to the public than last year's location in the mall.

Committee chairman Dan Higham offered his position to board member Jack Sheets. There may be a need to appoint a new chairman of

the Special Events/Programs Committee.

Old Business - Public Relations/Education

There was no report from Dr. Tom Barratt concerning his meeting with two potential suppliers of FCVRRHS T-shirts.

Bill McComas was congratulated on another fine issue of "The Valley Express" newsletter. Great job, Bill!

To enhance the sales of the Erie Railroad Triplex prints, it was recommended to advertise the prints in "The Valley Express".

The board decided not to take an interest in the Harry Turner estate. The widow of Mr. Turner has the traveling model railroad for sale as well as the truck and trailer.

New Business - Property/Equipment

The signal mast from the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society of North East, PA, will need the Nickel Plate Road signalhead removed and replaced with the EL signalhead that is in storage. The possibility of using cardboard Sonotubes for forms of the base of the signal mast was discussed. Dennis Mead suggested donating a small sum to the LSRHS for the mast. This sum would help the LSRHS

raise funds to paint their newly acquired GE 25 ton locomotive. A truck or trailer would be needed to haul the mast back to Meadville. Dan Higham says the U.S. Bronze has an 18 foot trailer available.

A motion to decline the acceptance of the refrigerator car that the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society had made available to the FCVRRHS. The motion passed, noting that there was not enough funds to transport it. The car also did not fit into the theme of the display area.

The owner of the Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad 2-10-4 #643, Mr. Glenn Campbell, has not yet signed an agreement granting the FCVRRHS first right of refusal.

Pete Gifford submitted an Erie Railroad car certificate that someone had given him to donate to the organization. Tom Collard noted that it was one he had not seen before.

A letter of thanks was sent to Mr. Bernard Liocano of West Springfield, Pa., for helping the organization acquire ties for the display area in Pomona Park.

An Erie Railroad centennial commemorative ashtray from 1951 is available from a private individual. If interested, contact Ed Cronin.

New Business - Public

Relations/Education

A short discussion about the size of the newsletter was discussed. It was agreed to keep the current size as is and fill it with good material. A handful of "The Valley Express" was given to the Crawford County Convention and Visitor's Center for distribution to patrons.

Other discussions were about the route of the NorthWestern Pennsylvania Railway in the county, the railroad bridge at Miller's Station, and the United Railroad Historical Society's attempt at saving the Erie Railroad doodlebug #5012. There is some interest among the membership in obtaining the doodlebug if the URHS fails in their bid.

New Business - Museum

Further discussions will be needed on how to get on better terms with Seco-Warwick. The organization will need to negotiate for parking for some events during the Railroad Days in 2010.

The price of the 84 Lumber Company property has dropped since it was first advertised. There is considerable interest in the property as an alternate choice for the new museum. A possibility of bringing a spur into the property from a connection with the Western

New York & Pennsylvania Railroad.

It was also noted that another property within the same area, Meadville Moving and Storage, is for sale. The last report indicated that \$500,000 was the asking price. The buildings are a concrete base and metal design.

The treasurer, Ed Cronin, received notice on December 22 that money from the Route 6 grant fund is not available for the museum. A meeting is planned to talk with the Route 6 Heritage Foundation.

New Business - Model Railroad

A seminar on Digital Command Control (DCC) was announced by Tom Collard. Miles Hale will be conducting the seminar at Christ Church of Meadville, 870 Diamond Park, on February 9, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. Registration fee is \$20.00 prepaid, \$25.00 at the door. Registration is limited to 25 attendees, so reserve early. E-mail your reservations to tcollard@ymail.com. For more information, call Tom Collard at (814) 337-7353.

Mr. Hale will discuss what DCC systems are available, instruct registrants on DCC operation and let them test out nine different systems.

New Business - Special

Events/Programs

Jack Sheets is looking into the fees for Thomas the Tank Engine and The Little Engine That Could for the 2010 Railroad Days. He is waiting for a price quote. He also investigated the price of renting a miniature rubber tired train to operate around the park. Price quoted was \$600.

A discussion of plans to revive the Santa Express excursion from Meadville to Cambridge Springs and back.

New Business - Membership

A discussion concerning raising the price of dues determined that current economic conditions do not warrant raising the price. The current \$15 per year per individual rate still applies.

Carl Timko was thanked for sending out a Christmas greeting to most members.

Motion for adjournment was made, seconded, and carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m. Duration of the meeting was two hours one minute.

