

The Second Section

Minutes from the October 20, 2011 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

Members attending the meeting were Dennis Mead, Bernie Hanmore, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Tom Collard, John Snyder, Denis Manross, Jason Ferguson, Stan Niwa, and John Nagursky.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin reported the funds available and funds restricted. He also reported that the organization has filed a form with the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue to collect sales tax. The six percent state sales tax will be collected on goods sold. Also, any sales over the website to Pennsylvania residents necessitates the collection of the state sales tax. Secretary Carl Timko is to notify the webmaster, Dianne Jones to change the order form on the website.

Ed announced that the FCVRRHS has filed an application for Trains Magazine's Preservation Award, which is to be presented on November 12. Cross your fingers.

Committee Reports *-Property/Equipment-*

Dennis Mead hasn't received any reply as yet from Rog's Trucking. They had traveled to Jefferson to look over the situation of hauling the #518, but as of the date of this meeting, no trucker has been found. Jason Ferguson, a current U.S. Army Reservist, will look into what the Reserves may be able to do.

Before the #518 can be placed at the display site, one of the machines in Pomona Park will need to be moved to a new concrete pad.

A work crew is to travel to Jefferson to complete the removal of components and material. A question of whether the water and sludge in the bottom of the frame would need cleaned out, was raised.

Ed Cronin asked if the organization can borrow from the restricted funds to help pay for any additional expense to hauling the #518.

The Vallonia Branch is being removed by Knuth Kustom. The branch served several businesses during its day, including Meadville Metal, a lumber business, and the American Viscose/AVTEX/Andover Industries. Carl Timko had talked with employees of Knuth Kustom who informed him that they saved some rail and switches for the historical society. Mr. Timko told these employees that this information was new.

(Editor's note: It was later divulged that the rail and switches were saved for a group in the Pittsburgh area. Without this knowledge, the thought was to use this equipment to build a switch to the planned museum.)

-Museum-

The Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad and Tooling Heritage Center was awarded a 1.5 acre parcel near the former 84 Lumber Co. A contract for five years to start building the museum was signed. The Heritage Center must show evidence of the money to build, then the transfer of ownership of the parcel can be made.

The museum committee is to meet with consultant Karen Petrucelli on Friday, October 21. Ms. Petrucelli will conduct interviews of 50 prospects in November and December to judge whether there is enough support to make the museum viable. Ms. Petrucelli will release her findings to the committee in January, which should indicate whether the fundraising can be initiated or put off temporarily.

-Public *Relations/Education-*

Newsletter editor Bill McComas showed the board a rough presentation of the next issue of "The Valley Express". Bill said it

may be published in time to distribute at the upcoming Rainbow Gardens train show.

The annual train show in Erie, will be Sunday, November 6, 2011, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The FCVRRHS will have a table at the show and will be selling calendars, t-shirts, magazines, and memberships.

-Historical/ Archives-

Dennis Mead noted that 50 more calendars were purchased from Vickey's Graphics. The calendars have been selling well. The calendars features the photography of Stuart Ladner, an Erie Railroad employee.

-Model Railroad-

The HO scale layout is planned to be in a store at the Downtown Mall, if one is available. It is hoped a store can be secured before Black Friday, November 25. The N scale layout, which is currently being rebuilt will be on display in the window of the @ the Bank shopping complex on Park Avenue, Meadville, PA.

-Membership-

Dennis Mead noted the last increase in dues was over three years ago. The attending members discussed on how to increase the dues and if the dues need to be increased. Several options of raising the dues include increasing the junior membership fee

to either \$3 or \$5, establish a "Gold Membership" for an additional fee, and rename the Family Membership , but keep the same dues fee.

John Snyder suggested the entire membership should have a copy of the membership roster in order to contact other members of the group. The topic was briefly discussed and will continue at the next meeting.

-Next Meeting-

The next board and general membership meeting will be Thursday, November 17, 2011, at 6:30 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry and Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

See you at the Train Show!

