



The Second Section



Minutes from April 17, 2008 meeting

on Saturday,
April 26th.

President Dennis Mead called the meeting to order at 6:04p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze and Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, Pa.

Officers and board members attending were: Dennis Mead, Al Reibel, Carl Timko, Huntington Christie, Bernie Hanmore, Larry Johnson, and Bill McComas. Other members attending were: Jeff Barnhart, Ed Blenner, Jonathan and Nate Clark, Ed Ferguson, Dan Higham, new member Loyd Mitchell, Jack Sheets, and guest of the Clarks, Bob Brooks.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin reported balances via e-mail. As of April 14, 2008, there were no new members. (One new member joined since then).

Maryann Martin and Ed Cronin presented a grant request, on April 14, 2008, to the Crawford County Redevelopment Authority for the amount of \$18,500 to finish the fundraising for the #518 Project. An additional \$5000 was added to the project for additional civil engineering, to be sure the display track will not need to be moved when the museum construction begins.

Old Business -

Property & Equipment

It was announced that the drive through the display site, Water St. extension, will undergo a realignment.

Nate Clark has not yet investigated the availability of the PRR X29 boxcar that is in Mercer County. Nate states his current professional dealings with Norfolk Southern would conflict with the interest in the boxcar. He says he will look into it after his current business with NS concludes.

The refrigerator car, currently on Lake Shore Railway Historical Society grounds, cannot be moved with the current reporting marks. Al Reibel and Hunt Christie plan to talk to Tom Collard about what to do to have the WNYP move the car. A question was raised about the historical significance of the reefer to the area, as it was not in local service. Several advantages of having the car was discussed.

Plans were discussed to go to McKees Rocks, Pa. to visit the B&LE 2-10-4 #643, either on the last Friday of April (the 25th), or the first Friday in May (the 2nd).

Jack Sheets reports the donated flagpole now belongs to the FCVRRHS. Jack and Bernie Hanmore are devising a plan to bring the flagpole to the display site. Plans are to move it

Old Business - Special Events & Programs

The One-Day Museum at the Perry St. station in Titusville, Pa. is scheduled for Saturday, June 21, 2008. The FCVRRHS has made a commitment to attend the function. Dennis Mead, Dan Higham and possibly Bill McComas plan to attend.

The annual Railroad Roundhouse is scheduled for Saturday, June 28, 2008, at the Downtown Mall, in Meadville, Pa. Volunteers will be needed.

The caboos will be open for tours this year on Sundays only beginning with the Memorial Day weekend, or by appointment. The first scout troop visit will be Wednesday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m. Volunteers are welcome to help with the scouts.

Old Business - Membership

One new member was announced at the meeting. Loyd Mitchell, a retired railroader was welcomed to the organization.

The following is a summation of current terms and nominations for this year's officers and board positions. President Dennis Mead has one year left in his term. Bernie Hanmore has been nominated for Vice President. Ed Cronin will

continue serving as Treasurer. Secretary Carl Timko has one year left on his term. Bill McComas, current board member has been nominated to continue as a board member. Jack Sheets has been nominated for a board position.

It was suggested at the March meeting to combine the Board and General Membership meetings. It was agreed by the consensus present.

Old Business – Model Railroad

Dan Higham reported on the progress of the start of the rebuilding of the layout. Dan's work is almost complete, building benchwork to support the layout sections during repair. New fascia boards were added to stabilize the layout. Dan suggested a review of the types of committees needed to form to get the second phase of rebuilding underway. One would be a design committee to formulate what the layout will look like. Also suggested was a group to execute the agreed design. Ed Ferguson has volunteered to help, and Ed Blenner may help as well. Discussions of the design of the layout included reinstalling the trolley at the lift-out section.

Other Old Business

Nate Clark reports the ELHS archives are to be relocated to Cleveland State University for no less than

five years.

“*Railpace*” magazine reported efforts are underway to build a new railroad museum in Port Jervis, NY. Plans are to rent the roundhouse and build an adjacent museum. New York and Greenwood Lake Railroad will be a factor in the plans. In possession is former Erie RR Dunsmore caboose #C121, formerly on display east of Albion, Pa. on Route 6. It also sat in Meadville yard while awaiting delivery. The Erie Lackawanna Historical Society is not planning to be a part of the museum.

New Business – Property & Equipment

Al Reibel e-mailed Tom Collard (WNYP) about the refrigerator car. Tom advised Al to contact Carl Belki, CEO of the WNYP Railroad, to discuss what can be done to get the reefer to Meadville. Al noted that new air hoses and a brake valve were needing replaced before moving the car. Al mentioned that tags may be available through a vendor in Pittsburgh.

Penelec agreed to meet with Al at the display site, as they are interested in the realignment of the Water St. extension.

Al related that the WNYP Railroad is not interested in being involved with the B&LE #643.

Peterson Auto was thanked for donating a pint

of paint to match the caboose. It will be for touch-ups on some rough spots.

Nate Clark noted the roadbed under the caboose seemed to be leaning. It probably will be corrected when the additional track is laid.

Jack Sheets and Bernie Hanmore are to begin preparations for the track that will be laid for the #518.

Jack brought in a photo of EL S2 #518 that he purchased at the show in Kirtland, Ohio.

Jonathan Clark asked when the #518 would be ready to travel. It will be awhile as the AC&J still has some work to do.

Devore Construction, Inc. was thanked for the donation of a four foot length of galvanized drain pipe. The pipe will be used to anchor the flagpole.

Jim Cray was thanked for the rule books, tickets, and railroad memorabilia he donated for display in the caboose.

It was noted two former Erie Railroad baggage cars are sitting in Jefferson, Ohio.

New Business – Public Relation & Education

Bill McComas will note the new members in the next edition of the “*Valley Express*” newsletter. Bill also is including updates from Tom Collard on the progress of the WNYP Railroad.

A feature on the Meadville branch of the Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad is planned.

Webmaster Jonathan Clark will be updating the website, removing some old notices.

New Business - Special Events & Programs

Dennis Mead indicated he would like to meet with Mr. and Mrs. Moss, owners of the Downtown Mall in Meadville, to finalize plans for the Railroad Roundhouse at the mall in June, as well as presenting plans for an event for Christmas.

New Business - Budget & Finance

Dennis Mead attended a meeting at the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society on April 4, 2008. Items discussed were enhanced tax incentives, where an individual or corporation that needs a tax shelter could commit an unspecified amount to the organization.

New Business - Membership

Jack Sheets visited the Silver Shores restaurant and Hoss's Steak and Sea House for hosting the annual dinner. It was agreed that Hoss's wouldn't be a problem for anyone. A consensus of members present agreed on having the dinner at Hoss's. An announcement will soon be

sent to all members regarding the dinner.

Dan Higham was asked if the monthly meeting could continue at the U.S. Bronze. Dan said it would be alright to continue meeting here.

Dennis Mead said that one of the meetings during the summer months may be held at the display site. Members would need to bring their own chairs. Notice will be given when a date is set.

Next month's meeting will be Thursday, May 15, 2008 at the U.S. Bronze and Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA, at 6 p.m.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. to the cafeteria upstairs, where the layout is being restored. More discussions on the rebuilding of the layout were held.



