



The Second Section

Minutes from the August 16, 2018 Meeting



Vice President Dennis Mead called the August 2018 membership meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Railroad Display Site in Pomona Park, Meadville, PA.

Attending the meeting were Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Stan Niwa, John Nagurney, Nick Ozorak, Terry Martin, David Ellis, Jim Saulsbery, and Greg Slater.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin summarized the financial status of the organization, noting balances, income, and expenses. Restricted funds consisted of the Heist Foundation Fund, the Meadville Model Railroad Club Fund, and the Museum Fund. Income included donations, and the sale of the baggage car. No merchandise was sold during the past month. Expenses were the fee for the Pennsylvania Charitable Business Organization and the bill for unloading the snowplow by WNYP crews.

Ed noted that only 24 members have renewed their memberships so far. Thirty eight have not renewed.

Committee Reports Budget / Finance

The bill to unload the snowplow was noticeably higher than expected due to the extra

time WNYP crews needed to set the snowplow on rails.

John Snyder plans to have a fellow modeler come to the Erie Train Show in November to look at the Lionel equipment that the FCVRRHS will be selling. John says this person gave him a pretty good price for his Lionel equipment.

It will be time to consider placing ads in the newspaper and social media asking the public for donations of model railroad equipment. The funds raised are used to help support the many programs of the organization.

Membership

Ed Cronin plans to notify the 38 members that have not renewed. Members are asked to send their dues to FCVRRHS, P.O. Box 632, Meadville, PA 16335; or use the website www.fcvrrhs.org, click on the "Membership" tab and renew through Paypal.

Model Railroad

Carl Timko raised the question of whether a new model railroad layout will be built in time for the holiday season. Ed Cronin answered that it is intended, but did not know when it will be started.

Nick Ozorak, who is managing the new Meadville Model Railroad Club, says another donation came in to help

support the program. The club will have up to five school students, ages 13 to 18, that will go to the Foundry Co-Work at Parkside Commons, (the old Meadville Junior High School on North Main St. and the Diamond), to learn to build a model railroad layout two days per week for two hours each day. So far, two applications have been received, with another possible applicant coming. Nick said the lower age limit isn't set in stone, but it won't go too far below the 13 year old limit. The first session is scheduled to be Tuesday, September 4, starting at 3:30 p.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m. Members who volunteer will need to get their clearances in order. Information on where and how to obtain the proper clearances can visit the following website: keepkidssafe.pa.gov/. This website relates the cost of the three clearances needed.

Museum

The status of the former Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad freight station is still unchanged. The trustee, so far, is sticking to the same asking price, which is considerably more than what the FCVRRHS and the Northwest Pennsylvania Heritage Partnership has bid. It has been noted that the roof will need replaced along with other

repairs. It is hoped that the best option for the building is in the hands of our historical society and the Heritage Partnership, in order to restore and preserve it. The freight station was built in the 1880s by the Meadville Railway. It served as a freight station from then until the late 1950s, after which it was sold to the Brooks family, who started a farm and garden business. The Mattocks family bought the business in 1969 and had been known as the 5M Meadville Farm & Garden until the Mattocks Five, Inc. company filed for bankruptcy.

Property / Equipment

The Russell snowplow that was donated to the FCVRRHS by the Growth Resources of Wellsboro, PA in September 2015, was delivered on July 20. It currently sits on a siding, waiting to be set on a display track at a lot across from the railroad display at Pomona Park, Meadville. It was hoped that the attending members of last month's meeting would be able to welcome it to town, but the WNYP crew outlawed a few miles north of Meadville and could not deliver it until the next day. It arrived with graffiti on one side, which has since been removed. Planning is underway to move it as soon as possible.

Due to circumstances beyond control of the FCVRRHS, the Pennsylvania Railroad baggage/tool car was sold to Mr. Allen Maples of the Everett

Railroad. A special board meeting was convened to vote on the sale and discuss the moving of the snowplow. Mr. Maples is reportedly interested in restoring the car for use on the Everett Railroad, which is a freight and excursion railroad in Blair County, PA. The excursions run between Hollidaysburg, Roaring Springs, and Martinsville. The excursions are usually powered by ALCO 2-6-0 #11.

The only other options regarding the baggage car were to keep it and pay a storage fee, or scrap it and risk damaging the reputation of the organization.

A work session was called for Monday, August 20, to empty the baggage car of the items stored within.

Wiring of the caboose has yet to be done. It is of less importance than moving the snowplow to its display site.

The Bessemer & Lake Erie boxcar only has a few things to do on it before the restoration is complete. The door has been installed by a crew led by Stan Niwa. One of the last jobs to do is a coat of paint on the west side and letter the doors.

The #518 needs the interior of the hood scraped and cleaned of rust, then repainted.

There has been no mention of the availability of any jet snowblowers, which Nate Clark had called to the attention of the membership in July.

Public Relations /

Education

Attendance at the caboose tour has been light, with four visitors the past two Sundays, and a visitor from Elkins, WV on August 11. No merchandise was sold as yet.

Carl Timko will be starting work on the newsletter, *Valley Express*, and asks members who wish to submit news or photos for publication, to have them in by the next meeting. It is hoped the Fall edition will be out by the Erie Train Show in November.

Carl also is working on organizing a Railroad Authors Day, where the authors will sell and sign their books as part of a fundraiser for the FCVRRHS. It is hoped it will coincide with the opening of the snowplow exhibit or the B&LE freight station, should the FCVRRHS and Northwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Partnership acquire it. Several authors have been contacted. Most of them are interested as long as their schedule and health permit.

The Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad's 150th anniversary is coming up next year. It is hoped the FCVRRHS can find ways to celebrate with public events.

Special Events/Programs

Upcoming train shows include the following:

August 26 - Painesville Railroad Museum Memorabilia Show at the museum, located at 475 Railroad St., Painesville, OH. Admission is \$5 and the

hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

September 8,9 - Buffalo Central Terminal Train Show at the Buffalo Central Terminal, located at 495 Padenewski Drive, Buffalo, NY.

Admission is \$5, hours are 10 am. to 4 p.m.

September 22 - Canfield Train & Toy Show at the Canfield Fairgrounds, located at 7265 Columbiana-Canfield Rd., Canfield, OH. The hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the admission fee is \$5.

September 22- Fostoria Rail Festival primarily at the Fostoria Junior/Senior High School, located at 1001 Park Ave., Fostoria, OH. There will be photo contests, a soup contest, remote control airplanes and drones, and historic rail tours. Admission is \$4. The hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

September 23 - Penn-Ohio Model Railroad Club Train Show. Details will follow later, though this is usually at the Hermitage VFW hall on State St. in Hermitage.

October 6,7 - Great Berea Train Show at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. Use the Bagley Road entrance at 19201 E. Bagley Rd., Middleburg Heights, OH. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on both days. Admission is \$8 per day or \$10 for both days.

October 7 - Buffalo Falling Leaves Train Show at the Polish Falcons, located at 4555 Columbia Ave., Depew, NY. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There are several rail

excursions within a few hundred miles of Meadville.

August 25,26 - Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum "Steam Weekend", featuring American Viscose 0-4-0 #6. The museum is based in Rush, NY.

September 1,2 - Steamtown Railfest 2018 at Scranton, PA

September 15 - Everett Railroad's "Steam into the Cove", featuring Everett's ALCO 2-6-0 #11 powering a 27 mile trip between Hollidaysburg and Martinsville, PA.

September 15, 16 - Rochester & Genesee Valley Railroad Museum "Diesel Days" featuring diesel locomotives of the museum pulling excursions at Rush, NY.

September 21-23, 28-30 - Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad's "Steam in the Valley", featuring Nickel Plate Road 2-8-4 #765. Departures are from Independence and Akron, OH.

Side Track

The Lake Shore Railway Historical Society has acquired yet another GE locomotive. Delivered was former Massachusetts Call Volunteer Firefighting Association #7764. It was used in educating and training emergency response teams. It was built for the Seaboard Coast Line as #1776, then renumbered as #1813. It kept its number when the SCL became part of the Seaboard System/Family Lines. It later became CSX #7764, and then to

MCVX when CSX retired it.

Trains News Wire, a vlog by Trains Magazine, stated it is inoperable due to lack of traction motors, but could be restored to operation if traction motors could be found. Thanks to Steve Sweeney, a former FCVRRHS member for that news.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting is scheduled to be Thursday, September 20, 2018 in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA. See you there!



PRR baggage/tool car #9035

Photo - Carl Timko