



# **The Second Section**

## Minutes from the February 15, 2018 Meeting



President Bernie Hanmore called the membership meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February, 15, 2018, in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

Attending the meeting were Bernie Hanmore, Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl and Vanessa Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Stan Niwa, Wayne Brown, Jonathon and Tanner Gable, Dave Ellis, and CMR Products representatives Scott Wilson, Aric and Brian Hartle.

### ***Treasurer's Report***

Treasurer Ed Cronin reviewed the balances, income, and expenses over the past month. Balances included the Unrestricted Funds and the Restricted Funds, which consists of the Heist Foundation Fund, the Bingham Fund, and the Snowplow Fund. Income included donations and a calendar sale. Expenses were for the services of Holdstill Productions to maintain the website; Crawford County Convention and Visitor's Bureau for the printing of 25 more Fall 2017 newsletters; Karen Waylan's share from the sale of model railroad equipment, and Pennsylvania state sales tax.

### ***Committee Reports Budget / Finance***

The 2018 calendars are sold out. Initially, 60 were ordered, then demand necessitated the need to order 25 more. No more 2018 calendars will be printed.

The Erie Train Show is the first Sunday in March. Carl Timko asked that a back-up plan be in place to haul the merchandise up to Erie in case Carl and Vanessa cannot make it to the show due to vehicle break-down or family emergency. Ed Cronin said he could haul the merchandise up to Erie, but could not stay too long. Jack Sheets and John Snyder volunteered to bring the merchandise back, if the need presented itself.

### ***Membership***

Condolences were sent on behalf of the organization, to Dennis and Donna Mead on the passing of Denny's father, David. Flowers were also sent to the funeral home. Denny thanked everyone for their cards, condolences, and the flowers.

Bernie Hanmore thanked everyone that sent him cards and get-well wishes after he had knee surgery in January.

Bernie also thanked everyone

that participated in the holiday layout display at the Kmart Building. The event was a great success! A lot of merchandise was sold and we met some new friends.

### ***Model Railroad***

Three representatives of CMR Products attended the meeting to demonstrate their N scale T-Trak model railroad modules. Scott Wilson, Aric and Brian Hartle showed everyone how the modules were built and assembled to build a layout. The base is constructed out of 1/4" birch plywood and uses a table for support, though legs could be built also. Adjustable feet were built in to level the modules. Access to the adjusting screws is from holes on the top of the module. Holes are pre-drilled to mount Kato Unitrack, which holds the modules together. The modules are wired for both DC and DCC, using 12 gauge trailer wire, which negates any need to have a DCC booster. The modules were built for the I-80 Group by Masterpiece Modules, which only builds N scale and Z scale modules. A single module with no track sells for \$15, a double module with no track sells for \$25, an end cap with no track sells for \$30. HO costs would probably be higher using the same materials. The

plywood would likely be thicker due to sagging under additional weight.

The NMRA Allegheny Region, Division 12 club is using the T-Trak module method, according to Dave Ellis.

John Snyder is selling his N scale equipment and layout. A reasonable offer will be entertained. If interested contact John by phone. His phone number can be obtained from the secretary, Carl Timko by emailing him at blebuddy@yahoo.com, or call 337-3710.

### ***Property / Equipment***

Vice President Dennis Mead announced that he had good news and bad news. The bad news is a display track will have to be built fairly soon. The good news is it looks like the snowplow is finally coming to Meadville. A very acceptable quote was obtained from Norfolk Southern to haul the snowplow from Corning to Hornell. The price includes the flat car it will ride on. The plan is to load the snowplow at Wellsboro, have the Wellsboro & Corning haul the flat car and load to Corning, N.Y. to interchange with NS. NS would then haul it to Hornell to interchange with the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad, who would take it to Olean, N.Y. to unload it and then bring it to Meadville on its own wheels. NS requires that the center of gravity of the flat car and snowplow be noted to

facilitate the move. Contact with the crane company, the tie-down contractor, TTX and the three railroads will be necessary to coordinate the move. The rail move will save several thousand dollars over a move over the highways. A suggestion was made to set the snowplow closer to the highway to attract travelers' attention.

Since Bernie Hanmore has been recovering from his surgery, he could not plane the boards for the B&LE boxcar. Stan Niwa will have the boards planed. The boards and door frame would then be reassembled, painted, and reattached to the boxcar, which would pretty much complete the restoration of the boxcar.

The impending arrival of the snowplow has necessitated the surveying of the new lot to begin as soon as possible so it is known where boundaries are in order to lay the display track.

Legal issues with Meadville Redevelopment Authority in negotiating the lease and possible purchase of adjoining parcels, along with rewording the contract with the city are to be handled by Attorney John Nagurney. The FCVRRHS wants to lease the adjacent lots with the hopes of purchasing them in a couple of years.

Should the FCVRRHS be successful in acquiring the land, a proposal was made to acquire three boxcars for the purpose of using them for displays, a gift shop, and possibly for storage. Dennis Mead suggested a map

to go the length of the inside of the boxcars that coordinates with photos on the wall. The PRR baggage/tool car would be used strictly for storage and exterior display.

### ***Public Relations / Education***

*Valley Express* editor Carl Timko needs photos, articles and committee reports by the next meeting so that the newsletter can be edited and sent to Pipp Graphics to spruce up and lay out the newsletter. It is hoped to have it published by the first of April.

Juanita Hampton of the Crawford County Convention & Visitor's Bureau offered to advertise the snowplow once it arrives in Meadville. Juanita is also an FCVRRHS member.

The FCVRRHS received a thank-letter for the donation of funds raised with a train set raffle while the layouts were on display during the holidays. This is a cause well worth supporting, so area kids can have a Christmas present that they may not have received one due to economic hardships.

A thank-you letter was sent to Coldwell Banker for use of their box truck at a moment's notice when we needed to haul the merchandise back and the layouts to their new homes.

### ***Special Events / Programs***

There are several train shows in the next few weeks. The February 24 Rochester TCA Train & Toy Show has been

cancelled, according to their website.

February 25 - Kittanning Winter Train Show at the Kittanning Township Volunteer Fire Hall, located at 13126 State Route 422, Kittanning, PA Admission is \$4; hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

March 3 - Independence Train & Toy Show at the Independence High School Fieldhouse, located at 6001 Archwood Dr., Independence, OH. Admission is \$5; hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There are 300 tables to visit.

March 4 - Erie Train Show at Rainbow Gardens in Waldameer Park, Erie, PA. Admission is \$5; hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The FCVRRHS will have at least 2 tables at this event. Come up and see us!

March 3,4 - Greenberg's Great Train Show at the Rochester Dome Arena, located at 2695 Henrietta Rd., Rochester, NY. Admission is \$10 for Saturday, \$9 for Sunday; hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

March 11 - West Seneca TCA Toy & Train Show at the Ismailia Shrine located at 1600 Southwestern Blvd., Orchard Park, NY. Public hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

March 17, 18 - Western Region, Division 5 Railfest located at Lakeland Community College, 7700 Clocktower Rd., Kirtland, OH. Admission is \$7 or \$12 per couple; hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

March 18 - Rochester Shamrock Train Show at the Radisson Hotel at the Rochester

Airport, 175 Jefferson Rd., Rochester, NY. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

March 25 - Great Batavia Spring Train Show at the Genesee Community Center, located at 1 College Rd., Batavia, NY. Admission is \$6; hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

March 30,31 - East Coast Large Scale Train Show at the York Expo Center, located at 334 Carlisle Ave., York, PA. Admission is \$10 or \$15 for the two days; hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, and 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday.

### ***Other News***

A new railroad historical society has been formed. Corry RAILS (Railroad and Industrial Legacy Society) has been formed to preserve the railroad history of the Corry, PA area. They may be acquiring the Erie Railroad depot in Corry. The depot has been a restaurant and a railroad store house since its days as a railroad station. Plans are to acquire and restore a steam locomotive. No specifics on any particular engine was given.

Tom Van Tassel was the contact with the new group.

### ***Next Meeting***

The next membership meeting is Thursday, March 15, 2018, 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.

See you there!



*Delaware Lackawanna & Western  
Russell snowplow #95904*