



The Second Section

Minutes from the February 16, 2017 meeting



President Bernie Hanmore called the February 16, 2017 membership meeting to order 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, John Nagurney, Ron Stafford, Brian Raybuck, Dave Ellis, Mike Lynch and guest Stephanie Franz, who became a member at the end of the meeting. Welcome, Stephanie!

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin's report of the organization's current financial status included current balances, restricted and unrestricted funds. Dollar figures for Income and Expenses were not disclosed. Expenses included costs of reordering shirts and newsletters.

Ed noted that the FCVRRHS was awarded a grant from the Crawford Heritage Community Foundation to be used for the snowplow. Ed earmarked the funds for the tie-down of the snowplow to the flat car. Stipulations included notifying the CHCF if the need to change the purpose of the grant arises. The FCVRRHS is to return any

remaining funds and make a detailed account of the usage of the funds spent. The CHCF requested the board to approve or disapprove of CHCF using the name, trademark, or other representations of the FCVRRHS in their brochures, public announcements, advertisements, websites, and other media. A motion to approve CHCF to use the FCVRRHS brand was made, seconded and carried by an unanimous vote of the attending members. The board agreed that by CHCF using the FCVRRHS brand in their various forms of media, the FCVRRHS would gain more publicity.

Committee Reports Budget / Finance

The clothing inventory and the Fall 2016 newsletters were replenished in time to have enough to sell at the upcoming Erie train show. Besides what is on hand, other shirts that are available to order are hooded sweatshirts with the diamond logo for \$32, polo shirts with a pocket with the diamond logo for \$21 and a long sleeved tee-shirt with the 518 image for \$24.

The status of the Erie Railroad shop text book will be available soon. To protect the FCVRRHS and its rights to this material,

software will be acquired to make the compact discs read-only. The book is over 100 years old and contains instructions for the newly hired Erie Railroad employee to properly and efficiently perform his daily duties in the shops. There are instructions on metal working, woodworking, electrical, plumbing, and more. The c/d will sell for \$40 to members and \$45 to non-members. The price is comparable to c/ds sold by the Erie Lackawanna Historical Society.

Historical / Archive

A team of Denny Mead, Carl Timko, Ron Stafford, Jack and Linda Sheets, and John and Lynda Snyder met at the U.S. Bronze on February 7 to sort and clean the room where the archives are stored. Cataloging will begin soon as Archivist Carl Timko has a plan to catalog the inventory. He noted that there are materials that do not get sold at train shows, such as the many white banker boxes of Model Railroader magazine and the many volumes of Train Magazine that sit on a table. These are reserved for member reference only. Artifacts are not to be removed from the archives. The Erie Railroad shop text book is one such example. The team uncovered a



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book on the Niles Car Co. that may be used in the display at the Cambridge Springs trolley station. The Niles Car Co. was one of many trolley car manufacturers in the United States. Also found was a drawing of a trolley that would be a nice display at the trolley station.

New member Stephanie Franz offered to bring some photographs of the local railroads that has been passed down to her.

Membership

With the addition of Dave Ellis and Stephanie Franz, the FCVRRHS has welcomed nine new members since the end of November. This is great as it shows that we are doing things right to attract new members.

Member Wayne Brown recently had a quadruple bypass. The word is Wayne is doing very well. Our best wishes go out to Wayne for his speedy recovery.

There are a few members that have not renewed their memberships. At \$20 for individuals, \$35 for a couple and \$5 for juniors, the price beats most area railroad historical societies.

Model Railroad

Recently, Secretary Carl Timko submitted a letter to the editor of the Meadville Tribune,

asking the public for donations of model railroad equipment. The purpose was to clean and fix the equipment, if needed, and resell them at train shows to bring in funds for the projects and operating costs. The response was impressive. So far, three area residents have donated their model railroad equipment and / or sets. The FCVRRHS appreciates the generosity of Adrienne Geddes, Eleanor Davies, and Cheryl Corp (in memory of Mark Phelan). The FCVRRHS also was the recipient of a complete model railroad layout. Stan Weidner donated his HO layout. Thank you, Mr. Weidner! This layout may be on display at the trolley station once the layout is refurbished, which shouldn't take much work. As a result of the letter to the editor, the FCVRRHS was able to help out an individual who needed help finding model train stores in Erie. The FCVRRHS is still accepting model railroad equipment. To donate, contact Carl Timko at blebuddy@yahoo.com or leave a note at the website (www.fcvrrhs.org)

Museum

The Cambridge Springs trolley station is open for business. The station can be rented out for weddings, parties, and meetings. Cambridge Springs

locals can use the station free of charge. The trolley station is open only by appointment at this time.

The work at the trolley station continues. Several graphics are being attached to the walls in the trolley station. It was said that they dress up the station nicely. The concrete floor in the basement is due to be busted up and replaced. Also, a replica of a trolley is planned to be built and rest along side the trolley station. Childrens' parties are planned to be held in the replica.

Property / Equipment

The status of the DL&W snowplow has not changed. Members of the board are still waiting for word from TTX. The board did agree to start looking into what the cost would be to rent a flat car. The board has not given up on TTX, but will need to have an alternate plan in the event TTX cannot help.

The search for wood siding for the B&LE boxcar continues. It was suggested to use reclaimed wood, such as what can be salvaged from barns that have been disassembled. Stan Niwa noted that he has boards to rebuild the doors. After much discussion about finding wood siding for the boxcar, Mike Lynch said his son-in-law can get 1"x6"x10' yellow pine



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boards at a very reasonable price. A motion to purchase the boards from Mike's son-in-law was made by Ed Cronin and seconded by Bill McComas. The motion carried by an unanimous vote of the attending members. John Snyder advised that the boards be delivered directly to Olan Wood Products who will do the milling.

Dennis Mead received the designs to cut the lettering for the boxcar from Mike Vickey. He already has cut stenciling for all but the data lettering. Dennis noted that the lettering for "BESSEMER" will be ten inches high. At some point this summer, a shelf for the stencils should be built in the boxcar to keep the stencils safe.

Dennis has been assembling photographs of the 518 during its career, noting the different paint schemes.

A work session that may be in the future or near future is to patch up the sides on the tool car and make it usable to store some of the collection.

Dennis Mead's idea of having flags made with logos of area railroads, past and present, seems to have garnered some interest from the membership. Carl Timko looked into a few companies, whose business is flag making. The two top prospects were American Flag Store and Best Flag. American Flag wanted \$90 per flag for a 3'

x 5' single sided flag, while Best Flag wanted \$70 for the same item. A suggestion of finding out if Al's Awnings of Erie can do the job at a comparable price.

John Nagurney said he is thinking of looking for another surveyor to measure the newly acquired lot.

Public Relations / Education

"Valley Express" editor Carl Timko asked that all submissions for the newsletter be in by the March meeting.

Special Events / Programs

Train shows coming up within the next month include the Rochester Upstate New York Train Show on February 25, at the Edgerton Community Center, Rochester, NY; the Erie Train Show on March 5 at Rainbow Gardens in Waldameer Park, Erie, PA. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; admission is \$5. The Railfest 2017 is March 18 and 19 at the Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, OH. The hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; admission is \$7 for an individual, \$12 for couples.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting is Thursday, March 16, 2017 in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake

Shoe Road, Meadville, PA

The April 20 meeting will be at the Cambridge Springs trolley station and the May meeting will be at the display site in Pomona Park, Meadville, PA. See you there!



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