



The Second Section

Minutes of the March 22, 2018 Meeting



Vice President Dennis Mead called the membership meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 22, 2018, in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

This meeting was originally scheduled for March 15, 2018, but was postponed due to inclement weather.

Attending the meeting were Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl and Vanessa Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Stan Niwa, Ron Stafford, Jonathon and Alexis Gable, Dave Ellis, John Nagurney, Dan Higham, and Pete Gifford.

Treasurer's Report

The month's financial report was read by Treasurer Ed Cronin, which contained current balances, income, and expenses. The sole reported income was from the sales at the Erie Train Show. Expenses were from table fees at the train show; Laurie's Embroidery, for shirts ordered; City of Meadville's property tax; liability and rolling stock insurance and a small sum to Jack McArthur for a box of HO train equipment.

The Restricted Funds did not change from last month.

Committee Reports

Budget / Finance Secretary and *Valley Express*

editor Carl Timko requested funds to buy 4 books of stamps to mail out the newsletters when they are ready.

Historical / Archives

Carl Timko noted that photographic evidence of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum and Bailey Circus arriving in Meadville over the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad in 1956. The photo was in Wayne Cole's new book, "*Ghost Rails XIV: Hallowed Grounds*".

Membership

The FCVRRHS welcomes our newest member, Bryan Bechler of Granite Falls, Washington. Bryan signed up as a life member. Welcome aboard, Bryan!

Property / Equipment

Stan Niwa reports the door of the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad boxcar is almost done. After a short discussion of where to store it, it was decided to house it in the boxcar. A short work session will be needed when it is moved, as it weighs around 300 pounds.

Jack Sheets reports that the interior of the boxcar stayed dry throughout the winter.

Carl Timko reports the

agreement between the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society and the Erie Lackawanna Historical Society regarding the loan of the Erie

Lackawanna caboose has been updated and signed. The agreement expires on April 30, 2026.

Vice President Dennis Mead reports the paperwork for the movement of the DL&W snowplow has been completed. He will need two weeks lead time to notify TTX for the flatcar. A schedule has been set to move the snowplow. The week of May 7 has been selected, which is little more than 5 weeks away.

After talking with the WNYP Railroad and Norfolk Southern, it seems the load will clear all overhead structures. If the need arises, the handrails on the cupola could be removed.

The survey of the lot across the street from the display site will begin at the end of April. Walker Surveying is the contractor.

Attorney John Nagurney said the proposal for the adjacent land that is being sent to Attorney Gary Alizzeo will be sent to Dan Crandall, chairman of the Redevelopment Authority.

Recently, Meadville Farm & Garden closed its doors for good, leaving the question of

what is to become of the 100+ year old former Bessemer and Lake Erie freight depot. Members of the FCVRRHS and the Northwestern Pennsylvania Partnership Heritage Center toured and inspected the building. Reports are the building is in good shape despite needing a new roof. The board and attending members discussed the building potentially being available.

Public Relations/ Education

The *Valley Express* editor, Carl Timko, said the newsletter is in the final stages before sending it off to Pipp Graphics and Design for final setup and layout. However, Kevin Pipp e-mailed Carl saying it may be delayed a couple of weeks due to recent rotator cuff surgery. So, instead of the planned April 1 release, the newsletter may come out in the second or third week of April. Crawford County Convention and Visitor's Bureau will be publishing it.

Special Events / Programs

Below is a listing of the events that readers may be interested in.

* March 30 - East Coast Large Scale Train Show - York Expo Center, 334 Carlisle Ave., York, PA; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Admission: \$15 (two days) or \$10 (one day).

* April 8 - Youngstown Model Railroad Assn. Toy Train Flea Market - Salem Center Plex,

1098 N. Ellsworth Ave., Salem, OH; 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Admission: \$5

* April 14 - Beaver Spring Train Show (first time) - Beaver Spring Auction Center, Route 522 between Selinsgrove and Lewistown, PA; 10 a.m. to ? p.m. (the text was garbled, so get there early). Admission:\$5.

* April 15 - Beaver County Spring Model Train Sale - Monaca Turners, 1700 Brodhead Rd., Monaca, PA; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Admission: \$5.

* April 28 - Pittsburgh Model Railroad Jamboree - Yorktown Hall, Robert Morris University, 8256 University Blvd., Moon Township, PA; Registration: NMRA members \$30 before April 10, non-members \$40; After April 10 add \$5.

* April 28 - ELHS Western Spring Meeting at A La Cart Catering, 429 Lisbon Ave., Canfield, OH; Doors open at 4 p.m., buffet dinner at 5:30 p.m., feature speaker at 7 p.m.; slide show until closing.

* July 21 - Jefferson County Historical Society Train Swap & Sale Event - Jefferson Community Center, 11 E. Jefferson Ave., Jefferson, OH; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Admission: \$2. (*editor's note: This is the first show in Jefferson. It was added to interest the readers, even though it is not until July).*

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 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!

