



The Second Section

Minutes from the October 18, 2018 Meeting



President Bernie Hanmore called the membership meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. on Thursday, October 18, 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, Carl and Vanessa Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Stan Niwa, John Nagurney, Ron Stafford, Nick Ozorak, Dave Ellis, and Chris Manning.

Treasurer's Report

Secretary Carl Timko read the treasurer's report prepared by Treasurer Ed Cronin. The report included current balances, income and expenses. Restricted funds include the Heist Foundation fund, the Meadville Model Railroad Club fund, and the Museum fund. Income is from a pledge for the museum fund. No other income was reported. Expenses are from Penelec, Pipp Design & Graphics (newsletter design), Parkside Commons (electric expenses for the model railroad club), stamps for the newsletters, a bank service charge, Meadville Redi-Mix (stone for the display track), Sherwin-Williams, and the September rent to the WNYP Railroad.

Committee Reports Budget / Finance

Several expenses will be coming due soon. They are International Truck & Crane (to lift the snowplow onto the display track), Meadville Redi-Mix (for stone delivered), WNYP (October rent), Laurie's Embroidery (shirts), Vickey Graphics (calendars), Crawford County Convention & Visitor's Bureau (publishing of newsletters), and two tables at the Erie Train Show.

The 2019 FCVRRHS calendars are nearing completion. As of this meeting, the photos were selected and are being cleaned up for publishing. The back page has yet to be finished. The decision at this meeting by the board is to proceed with the calendar using Pomona Park as the subject.

Membership

Jack Sheets made a motion to grant "Tiny" Gilliland a lifetime honorary membership. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously by the attending members.

Anyone still owing their dues, please send them to FCVRRHS, P.O. Box 632, Meadville, PA 16335 or electronically through Pay Pal and our website (www.fcvrrhs.org).

Model Railroad

The Meadville Model Railroad Club is in its third week and has three participants learning to build a model railroad layout. One of them, Jacob Novosel participated in a discussion at the October 15 Conneaut Lake Area Historical Society meeting.

The FCVRRHS will have at least two tables at the Erie Train Show Sunday, November 4. Any help tending the tables and loading and unloading is very much appreciated. This year, besides our clothing, we will be selling HO model railroad equipment donated by Scott Woods and Dennis Mead, along with some Lionel and Marx equipment. We should have the new calendars out by then also. It will be your first chance to purchase a 2019. Prices are still the same at \$13.50 (\$12.75 plus tax).

We have three potential model railroad equipment donations. One is from a member of the CLAHS who is donating American Flyer equipment. The last two are from FCVRRHS members. One is donating O scale EL locomotives. The other member is donating some HO equipment that he no longer needs. This equipment will not be at the show. It may be used on the new layout.

Museum

An agreement was reached between the trustee of the former Meadville Farm & Garden property and the partnership of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Partnership and French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society to purchase the former Bessemer & Lake Erie freight depot and surrounding property. A down payment of \$2500 is due immediately with the remainder of \$22,250 due at closing, should the bankruptcy court approve the deal. A Phase I environmental study will need to be completed shortly after submitting the down payment. A motion to approve the authorization of the FCVRRHS president and treasurer to submit the down payment and sign the agreement of sale was approved by the board. A second motion to approve spending the required fees of around \$2000 to conduct a Phase I environmental study also carried.

An agreement will be drawn up between the Northwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Partnership and the FCVRRHS as 50/50 partners in the ownership of the station.

Property / Equipment

Route 19 Crane Service backed out of lifting the snowplow onto the display track, reasoning that the ground was too soft to safely hoist the snowplow onto the display track. They suggested to wait

until the ground freezes.

Members are trying to connect with Industrial Truck & Crane, who lifted and transported the caboose from the yard in Meadville to Pomona Park in 2006.

When the snowplow dedication ceremony is scheduled, John Snyder says he has access to a tent that can be used for the event. Plans are to conduct a Railroad Authors Day where railroad book authors can attend, sell and sign their books.

The organization received a Conrail Safety board as a donation recently. This was used to show the number of days employees in Meadville Yard went without an injury.

The B&LE boxcar is complete with the exception of the lettering on the doors.

The new display track for the snowplow was completed on October 2. Ties and rail were acquired by Stan Niwa. Rick Rowlands and his crew from the Youngstown Steel Heritage Foundation assembled the panel track. Stone was delivered by Meadville Redi-Mix and spread by FCVRRHS crews.

The Pennsylvania Railroad baggage/tool car #9035 was placed on a truck and hauled to the Everett Railroad on October 4th. The car is on Everett Railroad property and is already being worked on to restore the car for operation.

Public Relations / Education

The *Valley Express* newsletter

has been published and mailed out to the membership. Thanks to Pipp Graphics & Design and Crawford County Convention & Visitor's Bureau for their part in getting the newsletter out. Also, thanks to all the members who submitted articles and photos to run in this edition. Bernie Hanmore took 20 copies to the CLAHS meeting to hand out.

The featured event at the Conneaut Lake Area Historical Society meeting on October 15 was a slideshow on the history and activities of the FCVRRHS. Dennis Mead and Bernie Hanmore were the speakers. There was a nice crowd. It is likely that the FCVRRHS will invite the members of the CLAHS to tour the railroad display sometime next year.

Carl Timko contacted Brian MacMurray of the Meadville Medical Center which owns the Kmart building about the availability of the Kmart building for the holiday model railroad display. Mr. MacMurray said the building will be torn down in late October or November (now December). We are grateful to MMC to be able to use the building one last time last year.

Jack Sheets has tried Griffin Motors, DRS Motors, Schraeder's and several other places to have the holiday layout set up, but to no avail. Nick Ozorak doubts there would be enough space at the Foundry CoWorks in the Parkside Commons, where the Meadville Model Railroad Club is set up. There was a

suggestion about the second floor of the Meadville Market House, but there is no access for the handicapped. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact a board member.

If the layout does get displayed, the schedule is likely to be Friday through Sunday. The hours would depend on access to the venue at our convenience. Set-up date would be the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, with opening day being the Friday following Thanksgiving.

The new layout is ready for assembly. It will be two 4'x 6' sections, but the layout can be made smaller if needed. DCC (Digital Command Control) is to be installed. Chris Manning offered a DCC system that he is not using.

The theme of the layout may be Thomas the Train. To do this theme, new equipment and buildings will need to be purchased. John Nagurney said he would look into the Train Collectors Association about Thomas the Train layouts.

John Snyder suggested that the layout be made around eye-level for kids.

David Ellis suggested to contact the Division 12 of NMRA to bring their layout, if a layout is not available to display. John Snyder said his small layout could be available, if needed. We do have the G scale layout still available to run the Polar Express, which was a favorite for the kids last year.

Lynda Snyder has offered her help in decorating buildings.

She did the wonderful buildings that are displayed on the G scale Polar Express layout.

The Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad's 150th anniversary is coming up in October 2019. A discussion was started with Scott Woods of the Greenville Railroad Park about a cooperative effort to celebrate the Bessemer between the Railroad Park and the FCVRRHS. The Bessemer was an important shipper and employer in Meadville and Greenville, though the Bessemer exited Meadville in the late 1970s.

Special Events / Programs

Upcoming trains shows include the Erie Train Show at Rainbow Gardens in Waldameer Park, Erie, PA on Sunday, November 4. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., admission is now \$5.

On November 10 and 11, the Greenberg's Great Train & Toy Show is at the Monroeville Convention Center, located at 209 Mall Blvd., Monroeville, PA. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Admission is \$10 for Saturday and \$9 for Sunday.

The Mansfield Train Show is November 18 at the Fairhaven Hall at the Richland County Fairgrounds, located at 750 N. Home Rd., Mansfield, OH. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; admission is \$5.

The Rochester Thanksgiving Train Show is November 23 at the Radisson Hotel at the Rochester Airport, 175 Jefferson Rd., Rochester, NY from 9:30

a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Fort Pitt Chapter of the TCA will have its train show on November 25 at the Syria Shrine Conference Center, located at 1877 Shriners Way, Cheswick, PA.

There will be two known excursions coming up. The Everett Railroad will run its Santa Express trains on November 23rd through the 25th. They will leave Hollidaysburg, PA and head to Brookes Mills and return. Departure times each day are at noon, 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$24 for seniors, \$20 for children ages 3 to 12/ Children under the age of 3 can ride for \$5.

The Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad will run its Santa Trains on November 24, 25 and December 1. Departure is from the Perry St. station in Titusville, PA and will leave at 1 p.m. each day. Ticket prices are \$40 for 1st Class, \$22 for adults in coach and \$20 for seniors in coach.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 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 and at the Erie Train Show!



