



# **The Second Section**

## **Minutes of the April 19, 2018 Meeting**



President Bernie Hanmore called the membership meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., on Thursday, April 19, 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 Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Stan Niwa, Jonathon and Alexis Gable, Jim Saulsbery, Ron Stafford, and guest Jeremy Haag.

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

Secretary Carl Timko gave a brief summary of the current finances submitted by Treasurer Ed Cronin. Only balances were available, those being Cash on Hand, Unrestricted Funds, and Restricted Funds. The Restricted Funds consist of the Heist Foundation funds, the Bingham Fund, and the Snowplow Fund.

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

Planned expenses for the loading of the snowplow include Williamsport Crane and Rick Rowlands for tying the snowplow down to the flatcar. Norfolk Southern has already been paid in full, but won't

accept the payment until the flatcar has been assigned. That is expected to happen very soon.

### ***Membership***

Guest Jeremy Haag, who has been in conversations with some members of the organization through Facebook, announced he is planning to join the FCVRRHS. Jeremy's proposal appears in the Public Relations section.

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

The long awaited loading of the snowplow will occur on Monday, May 7. A crew of Bernie Hanmore, Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, and Stan Niwa will travel to Wellsboro the day before and stay overnight to be at the loading site early the next morning. Dennis Mead gave three options for the stay, and in case anyone wanted to go to Wellsboro on their own for one reason or another. They are the Penn Wells Lodge, that charges \$131 per night; the Sherwood Motel at \$98 per night and the Canyon Motel at \$78 per night. Stan Niwa noted that there are campgrounds that have cottages to stay in.

Plans are for the flatcar to be at the Corning interchange on Wednesday, May 2. It then will

be brought to the loading site on Friday May 4. After the snowplow is loaded on May 7, Rick Rowlands will tie it down. When it passes inspection, the car is expected to be moved to Corning for interchange with Norfolk Southern on Friday, May 11. Then it will be hauled to Hornell to interchange with the WNYP Railroad when NS's schedule permits. WNYP will pick up the flatcar and haul it to its Olean, N.Y. facilities to unload the snowplow and get it ready to be pulled to Meadville on its own wheels. It is not clear as yet as to when the snowplow would be traveling from Olean, but officials at the WNYP will notify officers of the FCVRRHS when they are ready to bring it to Meadville.

The lot where the snowplow will be displayed has been surveyed by Walker Surveying LLC. It was announced that the FCVRRHS is in the final stages of acquiring the two adjacent parcels to the lot. Inquiries about acquiring the rest of the property to Mercer St. may take place soon. Plans are to display the snowplow and baggage car and possibly bring in two or three boxcars for displaying and storing artifacts and operation of a gift shop.

The work to complete restoration of the B&LE boxcar

will commence with a work session on Tuesday, April 24. An attempt to install the top rail for the door is planned. If time and weather permits, the rollers may be installed. The bottom rail also needs installed along with the two missing corner braces and a grab iron.

Things are certainly getting exciting in the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society.

The attending members discussed the possible future of the former Bessemer freight station in Meadville. Nothing will be clear until the legal issues surrounding the current owner are resolved.

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

*The Valley Express* newsletter has been mailed out to all the members. There was one correction that needs to be made. The B&LE Meadville freight station was built by the Meadville Railway in the 1880s. After several changes in railroad ownership, the station became property of the Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad.

To inform the public about the snowplow, details will be posted to the FCVRRHS's Facebook site. Several groups between Wellsboro and Meadville are interested in witnessing the transportation of the snowplow.

Jeremy Haag wants to record an informative video of the history of the rolling stock on display at Pomona Park. He would then post it on YouTube.

One of the members would narrate the video.

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

Several train shows will occur in the next month, along with a couple of excursions.

April 28 - Pittsburgh Model Railroad Jamboree at the Yorktown Hall, Robert Morris University in Moon Township, PA. Registration is \$35 for members of the NMRA and \$45 for non-members.

April 28, 29 - Kenan Center Train Show held at 433 Locust St., Lockport, N.Y. Hours are Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

May 5 - TCA Lake Erie Chapter Spring Train Meet at the UAW Hall, 5615 Chevrolet Blvd., Parma, OH. Public hours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

May 5,6 - Model Train Days at Painesville Railroad Depot, 475 Railroad St., Painesville, OH. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; admission is \$5 or \$12 for a family. There will be 12 different layouts, N scale through G scale. A model railroad flea market will be on the grounds as well.

May 9-13 - Pennsylvania Railroad Technical & Historical Society 50th Anniversary Convention, at the Blair County Conference Center, Altoona, PA. Registration is \$50 per family for members of the PRRT&HS; \$90 per non-member family.

A train ride from 30th Street in Philadelphia to Altoona will leave on May 9 and return on the 13th. Cost is \$1000 per

person. This may be the last ride for the PRR E8s due to Positive Train Control regulations.

May 19 - National Train Day & Community Day Event at the West Pittsburgh Train Station located at 805 9th St., West Pittsburgh, PA. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; admission is free.

June 18-23 - Big Train Operators Club 40th Anniversary Convention at the Bird-In-Hand Family Inn, Strasburg, PA. Registration is \$100 for members. An All-Aboard Party is an extra \$30. A train ride on the Wilmington & Western Railroad is an extra \$115. A bus ride for the Gettysburg Battlefield Tour is another \$130. The tour to the B&O Railroad Museum in Baltimore, Maryland is \$90. Attending the Amish Banquet will cost another \$36 per person.

Model railroading is fun but getting really expensive!

The other excursion to report is on May 5 on the Reading & Northern Railroad. The train, *The Oneida Clipper*, will leave Port Clinton, PA at 10 a.m. and travel to Oneida. It will return to Port Clinton at 7 p.m. Coach seats are \$69 and \$134. Most seats are sold out.

John Snyder, Jack Sheets and Jack's brother-in-law, Melvin, attended the Youngstown Model Railroad Association train show in Salem, OH recently. John reports it was a real nice show with very affordable prices. The trio also went to the Beaver

County Model Railroad Show  
in Monaca, PA. John and Jack  
said the ride was nice, the food  
was good, but the show was not  
a good show.

### ***Next Meeting***

The next membership meeting  
will be Thursday, May 17, 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!

