



The Second Section

Minutes of the January 19, 2017 meeting



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

In attendance were Bernie Hanmore, Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, John Nagurney, Chris Manning, Ron Stafford, Mike Lynch, Brian Raybuck, and guest David Ellis, who became a member after the meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin's report of the financial status of the organization included total balances, restricted and unrestricted fund balances, expenses of Holdstill Production for the website, Ferguson Financial, for completing three 1099 forms, renewing the IPower domain for 2 years, Pennsylvania state sales tax and Laurie's Embroidery, for shirts purchased that were later sold. The only income reported were donations and dues. Ed also said that the annual Pennsylvania report for non-profit corporations was filed.

Committee Reports Budget / Finance

Carl Timko reported that some of the merchandise needed to be

reordered. Levels of the t-shirts, polo shirts and sweatshirts were getting low, as were the newsletters and calendars. Although the newsletters are not sold, they do contain the latest news of the FCVRRHS, which is convenient for visitors to our table at the train shows. The 2017 calendars are just about sold out. Since it would be so late in the year before Mike Vickey, the publisher, would get to reprint another set of calendars, it was decided not to have them printed, making the ones that were published collector's items.

Congratulations went to Jack Sheets for selling more than half of the calendars. Thank you, Jack! A motion was made by Ed Cronin to have the shirts and newsletters reordered. Dennis Mead seconded the motion, which carried by the unanimous vote of the attending members. The number of copies of the newsletter to be reprinted was discussed. The board decided to order fifty more copies.

Carl also pointed out that the model railroad equipment that is used to raise money is getting low in inventory. He suggests that members ask around to have people donate their collections or possibly buy the collections at a fair price. It should be advertised in the

newspapers, newsletter, and on the website.

Historical / Archives

Carl Timko has completed digitally copying the Erie Railroad shop text book that was donated to us last year. The book contained prints and instructions on nearly every aspect of the railroad's machining, woodworking, and maintenance practices. The book will be available on cd as soon as some legal questions are resolved. The pricing of the book on cd was discussed and decided that the price will be \$45 for non-members and \$40 for members. The book is over 100 years old and will not leave the FCVRRHS's archives for any reason. Viewing the book on cd as a slideshow on one's computer will likely not be in any order. Carl titled the pages with a descriptive name and ending with the page number. There will be several instances where the page number on the page itself and the page file name will not coincide. The book was copied as each page was laid out in the book.

Membership

Prayers and well-wishes go out to member Wayne Brown. Jack Sheets reported that Wayne would have open heart surgery the day following this meeting.



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Good luck, Wayne!

Ed Cronin reports that six members have not renewed their memberships so far. The attending members were asked to help convince those that haven't renewed to re-up. The FCVRRHS is looking at a year where three projects could be completed. Let's hope they don't miss out on the excitement by not renewing.

The Christmas dinner at the Downtown Mall Bistro was deemed a success. Everyone that came enjoyed the dinner. The personnel of the Bistro were very accommodating and gracious. Thanks to all the staff of the Bistro, we had a great time. The Christmas dinner for 2017 may be held at the Bistro again.

Carl Timko was named the official photographer of the FCVRRHS, even though he has low vision. Carl photographed the 518, after it was painted, using a tablet.

Model Railroad

Dennis Mead announced that he will be "abandoning" a portion of his G-scale model railroad. Those that have visited Denny's layout know how sad this news is. Denny will continue to operate the shortened line this summer, with the possibility of modifying the

track layout in places.

Property / Equipment

The search for wood siding boards for the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad boxcar continues. It is preferred to stay with the yellow pine that was used last year. The size boards required is 1" x 6" x 10' (or more), so there is enough wood too be milled down to the final size. The wood also is preferred to be kiln dried so it does not warp. If, however, wood of a different species is found and can be used, it would not be turned down. John Snyder explained to the new members that attended the meeting what work is being done and has been done to the boxcar. Mike Vickey is preparing the layout of the stencils. Dennis Mead asked Mike to make only the letters "B", "E", "S", "M", and "R". Mike would make a set of numbers that would be used later. The plan is to paint the lettering with a flat paint so the gloss coat of paint would adhere. A sealer would be applied after that.

The status of the DL&W snowplow has not changed. We are still waiting to hear from TTX. Carl Timko has submitted another application to TTX for use of a flat car. He included photographs of the

work crews at the display site.

Dennis Mead is assembling a collection of photographs of the 518. He is still looking for a photo when it was brand new.

One of the plans for the new lot, besides displaying the snowplow, is to erect a shed. It may be used for storage or displaying artifacts.

Dennis Mead offered the suggestion of having flags made of logos of every railroad that served Meadville and the surrounding area and displaying them on fence posts around the display sites. Flags would fly bearing the logos of the A&GW, NYPANO, Erie, Erie-Lackawanna, B&LE, WNYP, Conrail, NS, PRR and possibly others. It was not known where these could be made, but a search on the internet may provide answers.

Ed Cronin suggested that the lights at the display site be turned on at night for the next six months. If the electric bill is affordable, it may continue. There is one more light that is to be installed.

Public Relations / Education

President Bernie Hanmore thanked everyone who helped with the layout, noting the success we enjoyed this holiday season. The train set raffle raised \$200 for the local Toys for Tots campaign. The winner



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of the train set was Bob Hilton of Conneaut Lake.

Congratulations, Bob! And thanks to everyone that purchased a raffle ticket and supported the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society.

"Valley Express" editor Carl Timko asked to have committee reports and news submissions for the newsletter handed in by the second week of March. The hope is to have the newsletter out by April 1.

Museum

Ed Cronin informed the members that the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station is now open for business. The station can be rented for meetings, parties, and receptions for just \$30. Ed stated there is still much work to be done at the station. Some of the work projects include pouring a concrete floor in the basement, installing 132 rafter tails, erect signs with "The Edinboro Route" emblazoned on them, building a replica of a trolley. Ed and Bernie Hanmore plan to travel to Johnstown, PA to look at some trolley cars that may be available. The trolley cars were collected by one person who had a vision of reinstating trolley travel in Johnstown. The effort fell through, though, and many cars seem to be available. The hope, at least, is to find a

chassis and wheel set or sets for the replica.

Ed also said that items for the display cases in the trolley station will be needed. Artifacts from the A&GW, NYPANO, Erie, the Erie-Lackawanna, the trolley system will be needed for display as well as glass milk bottles.

Special Events / Programs

Train shows that may interest readers include the following:

- * February 5 - Medina Model Model Railroad & Toy Show at the Medina County Community Center in the fairgrounds, located at 735 Lafayette Rd. (State Route 42), Medina, OH;
- * February 11 and 12 - Greenberg's Train and Toy Show at the Monroeville Convention Center;
- * February 18 and 19 - Western New York Railroad Historical Society 26th Annual Winter Train Show at the Event Center and Expo Hall at the fairgrounds, 58250 South Park Avenue, Hamburg, N.Y.;
- * February 19 - Frosty Rails 2017 at the Shenango Township Volunteer Fire Department social hall, located at 2424 East Washington St., New Castle, PA
- * February 19 - Kittanning Train Show, Kittanning, PA Volunteer Fire Department;
- * March 5 - Erie Train Show, Rainbow Gardens, Waldameer Park, Erie, PA. 10 a. m. to 4

p.m. - Admission is \$5;
 * March 18 and 19 - Railfest 2017, at the Lakeland Community College in Kirtland, OH - Admission is \$7 or \$12 for couples; It is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; There is some construction at the college and there may be a slight detour within the campus to get to the gymnasium.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 6:30 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry and Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA. See you there!





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