



The Second Section



Minutes from the November 16, 2017 meeting

President Bernie Hanmore called the November 16, 2017 membership meeting to order 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.

Attending the meeting were Bernie Hanmore, Ed Cronin, Carl and Vanessa Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Stan Niwa, John Nagurney, and Jonathon and Alexis Gable.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin summarized the monthly financial status of the organization that included balances, income and expenses. The balances were unrestricted and restricted funds and the sum of both. Income was from donations, dues, and sales of merchandise. Expenses were table fees at the Erie Train Show and costs of producing the calendars and a fee to the Crawford County Convention and Visitors Bureau. The latter two figures were released in October's membership meeting.

Budget/Finance

The 2018 calendars are selling very well. Of the 60 that were originally purchased, 49 have been sold, as of this meeting, with five in Jack Sheets's

possession to sell and 6 left in stock. Permission to order 25 more calendars was given at the end of the meeting.

Jack received no reply from Mr. Baker about surveying the property across from the display site. He did receive a quote from Walker Surveying LLC of Cambridge Springs in the amount of \$750. A motion to accept the offer was made by John Snyder and seconded by John Nagurney. The attending members unanimously approved the motion. The need to have the property surveyed was greater than the need to wait an unknown amount of time for a lesser price.

John Nagurney reported there was no movement from the Meadville Redevelopment Authority regarding their property that borders the lot across from the display site.

Sales at the Erie Train Show were outstanding. Ed Cronin gave the totals of sales, also splitting the amounts received from the Whalen collection and the regular merchandise of the organization. The totals were very close to each other. A big thank you to all who helped tend to the sales tables at the Erie Train Show.

One of the interesting items to note at the train show was how many people were interested in buying the caboose tee shirts. A review of the cost to make the

tee shirts is needed due to the interest from the public.

Carl Timko displayed a print of the boxcar that could be used for the next tee shirt design. No action was taken to approve the design as yet.

Historical/Archives

John Snyder displayed a conductor's coat that Ed Cronin said came from Marty Ferguson's father. John went into detail about removing and replacing the buttons.

Membership

One potential member may be Mike Shannon, who is well known to some of the members. Mr. Shannon picked up an application at the train show, saying that he had been interested in joining for some time.

Model Railroad

This will be the last year for the large HO layout. Its condition is such that it is more difficult to assemble. Ed says it was first built for the Cambridge Springs library. It has helped bring publicity to the FCVRRHS and has served the organization very well. A new layout is to be planned and built by several members, using a modular method that will be lighter and easier to set up.

Museum

Ed Cronin announced that Dale Doctor and some fellow carvers will be appearing at the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station on Saturday, December 16, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. They will be demonstrating their craft and selling what they make.

Property/Equipment

Outside work on the B&LE boxcar has been completed for the year. The remaining boards for the siding were painted and installed. The rebuilding of the door on the west side of the boxcar is all that remains to be done. Stan Niwa has the pieces to the door that he will work on in his garage. After the door is installed, the platforms under the doors will be removed to represent a true revenue-producing Bessemer boxcar.

The meeting with Jim Lesiak at Olean, N.Y. to look over the snowplows of the WNYP Railroad has been canceled and will be rescheduled. Stan Niwa will ride up with Dennis Mead to help give Mr. Lesiak some idea of what processes are needed to load and haul the DL&W snowplow to Friendship, N.Y. The snowplow would then be picked up by the WNYP and taken to Meadville. Mr. Lesiak owns and operates the Over the Hill Trucking Co.

Other work planned for the near future at the display site is wiring up the headlight on the #518 and wiring up the caboose so it can have electricity. A work session to wire the

caboose may be as soon as two or three weeks from the date of this meeting, weather permitting. Jack Sheets reported that the lock on the south side has been replaced.

It was decided that the display site will not need an additional floodlight. The signal is working very well and is impressive during the evening hours. An outdoor outlet may be installed next spring.

Public Relations / Education

Jack Sheets had no luck securing space at the mini-plaza near Giant Eagle. He had one other possibility, but he would not hear from anyone until the first week of December, which would be too late for displaying the layout for the holidays. Carl Timko looked into using the Kmart by emailing the Meadville Medical Center, which now owns the building. Contact was made with Mr. Brian MacMurray, who is willing to let the FCVRRHS use the building. Carl and John Snyder met with Mr. MacMurray at the former Kmart to look over the store. Mr. MacMurray offered to let us use the store free of charge and include the use of electrical service, the bathrooms, heat and a key. A vote via email from the board tallied 5 votes for using the building, 3 were against, with one abstaining. We would have to advertise like we haven't done before through the newspapers, tv, radio and the

internet. After much discussion, the hours that were approved were Wednesdays 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(editor's note: if the first two days are any indication, this will be a very nice venue for the layout.)

Members are asked to volunteer their time to help make this event a success.

Special Events/Programs

There are several events occurring during the holidays, including train shows, model railroad layout displays, and excursions.

Train shows in December include the Tiger Track Train Show at the Rochester Institute of Technology on December 9 and 10. It will be in the RIT Gordon Field House on campus in Rochester, N.Y. Hours are Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults, seniors pay only \$4.

On December 10, the Lakeland Community College's AFC gym in Kirtland, OH, will be the location for their Christmas Train Show. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Admission is \$6.

There are at least seven layout displays during the holiday season. The Youngstown Model Railroad Association will have theirs at 751 N. Raccoon Road, Austintown, OH on December 2 and 3. They already had a couple of weekends open to the public. The Mid-Mon Valley Model Railroad Club has their

layout on display at 159 New Eagle, PA on weekends from the first Saturday after Thanksgiving through the weekend after New Year's Day, with the layout closed on Christmas Eve.

The Clarion Model Railroad Club will have their displays in the Cranberry Mall. The mall is located along U.S. Route 322 in Seneca, PA (Franklin/OilCity). The club will open their layout starting on November 24 through Saturday, December 23 on Wednesdays and Fridays 6 to 8 p.m., Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 4 p.m.

The Ohio Valley Miniature Railroad Museum, located at 1225 Merchant St., Ambridge, PA will be open Saturdays and Sundays from November 24 through January 7. Admission is \$6.

The Penn Hills Police Department has their train display located at 12245 Frankstown Road, Pittsburgh. It is open Monday through Friday, 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. through December 30; it will not be open on Christmas Eve or Christmas. Admission is \$1.

The Carnegie Science Center, located at 1 Allegheny Avenue., Pittsburgh will have a model railroad display open Sundays through Fridays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., starting November 20.

The Phipps Conservancy Train Display, located at 1 Schenley Drive, Pittsburgh will be open Saturdays through Thursdays 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Fridays

9:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Admission is \$15.

Don't forget the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society

Singer Neil Young will be auctioning some of his Lionel collection along with some of his cars and guitars to benefit a charity that he is close to. Some of the Lionel pieces are rare.

The Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad will run excursions on November 25 and December 3, as their Polar Express.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting will be Thursday December 21, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station, located off of U.S. Routes 6 and 19 in Cambridge Springs, PA. This is the Christmas party; members are asked to bring a dish of food or desserts to the meeting to share.

The FCVRRHS hopes all the members had a great Thanksgiving Day. We hope to see you at the layout and the party.

