



The Second Section



Minutes of the February 18, 2010 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting of the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society at 6:02 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

Members attending the meeting were Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Larry Johnson, Jack Sheets, Tom Collard, Gene Vilkie, John Snyder, Wayne Brown, and Denis Manross.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin disclosed to the attending members the total cash on-hand, including funds that are restricted. He reported member Ms. Alberta Cole sent in a donation. Ed reports the organization has a new junior member. Jacob Trenn of North Kingsville, Ohio recently sent in his application and dues. Welcome aboard, Jacob!

Ed reported on the upcoming expenses, including the fee due for the website.

Committee Reports - Museum

Ed Cronin reports that contact was made with the 84 Lumber Company. They will not consider any charitable contributions, and have no interest in dealing

with the environmental problems at the former 84 Lumber site in Meadville. They would prefer that the Heritage Center Site Committee make an offer on the property as-is.

After a recent meeting with the PA Department of Environmental Protection, it was found that the portion of the 84 Lumber Co. property that is fenced in, which includes the buildings, does not necessarily need cleaned up. However the portion that is not fenced in does need decontaminated. The cost of a Phase II cleanup was reported. Currently no grants are available for the museum at this time. The Economic Progress Alliance and the city of Meadville can access grants, though. It may be possible to operate the museum portion inside the fence, and clean up the area outside the fence within five to ten years.

The Heritage Center Site Committee is also looking at the Bessemer Building as a possible site for the museum. However, PMI is also looking at that building for possible expansion of their facility, if environmental problems can be resolved.

Area floodplains will be reevaluated in 2010. Effective 2011, the resulting reevaluation will make Pomona Park unusable for building anything, including a museum. The new

floodplain regulation will prevent anymore rolling stock to be added for display. The caboos and the #518 will be able to continue to be displayed through a "grandfather" clause.

Ed reported that parts of the ALCO S2 that were removed and sent to Oesterling Sandblasting and Painting are done and will be stored on Oesterling's property until needed.

Historical/Archives

The time frame for the train wreck depicted in photographs that Denis Manross brought in, has been narrowed. So far, 1938, 1941 through 1945 have been eliminated by reviewing microfilm of old Tribune newspapers at the Crawford County Historical Society. The next dates to check are 1939 and 1940. Many thanks to Ann Stewart and the folks at CCHS to allow us to research this incident.

Ed Cronin sent a letter to Larry Smith, thanking him for the donation of his collection, while explaining the reasons the FCVRRHS cannot appraise items of historical significance. A detailed inventory was also sent.

Public Relations/ Education

Bill McComas announced he will run a story on the AC&J Railroad excursion,

their equipment and the Jefferson, Ohio depot.

The deadline to submit articles, photos, or suggestions for the newsletter is March 18, 2010.

Bill would like to interview Wayne Brown on his experiences while working for the Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad as part of a maintenance of way crew.

An article on the history of the ALCO S1 and S2 locomotives may appear in "*The Valley Express*" soon.

Discussions, by the board and attending members, of the current state of the website, included a couple of possibilities to update it.

Jonathan Clark, who is listed as the current webmaster has been unavailable due to his time in the armed services and attending college.

Dennis Mead met with Ray Grabowski of the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society to review the website design the LSRHS is having Kathy Noce do for them. The design is user-friendly, while it still would have security codes to access the site. Dennis was to meet with Ms. Noce, but she was injured and had to cancel the consultation.

Tom Collard said he may see about getting someone from Allegheny College to volunteer to update the website. Tom asked to be assigned the task.

Special Events/ Programs

The first "bull session" sponsored by Tom's Train Terminal kicked off February 3, in the @ the Bank facility where the hobby shop is located. Attending the first session were Tom Collard, Gordon Valentine, Brian Weber, Bill McComas, Carl Timko, and Al Reibel. The next session will be Thursday, March 4, 2010, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Tom's Train Terminal and the FCVRRHS will co-host a short seminar of building a museum, during the first week in August 2010, at the @ the Bank facility. The speaker will be a representative from the Chattanooga Choo Choo Museum, in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

A weathering clinic is also planned to be instructed by Mr. Al Notarione. The date and venue have yet to be determined.

Property & Equipment

The #518 project is currently at a standstill due the weather and anticipation of the AC&J Railroad crew to finish removing the parts they requested. The plan is to ship the body, frame, and cab to Oesterling Sandblasting and Painting this Spring.

Jack Sheets said he would review quotes he received from a couple of crane contractors.

A conversation between Dennis Mead and Ken

Springirth disclosed that Mr. Springirth is writing a book on the railroads of northwest Pennsylvania. It will include our very own Erie Lackawanna caboose.

A You Tube video of comedienne Tammy Pescatelli featured a short clip of the caboose for the world to see. Ms. Pescatelli is a resident of Meadville.

The tub of T-shirts, newsletters, and materials used for display and sales at shows is now stored in room 212 at the U.S. Bronze, until warmer weather permits storage at the caboose.

The Rainbow Gardens train show is scheduled for Sunday, March 7, 2010. The hours of the show are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$4.00 for adults, \$3.00 for senior citizens and students age 12 to 18, and children under 12 years of age are free, if accompanied by an adult. Rainbow Gardens is located at Waldameer Park in Erie, PA.

Membership

The FCVRRHS welcomes new member Jacob Trenn to the fold. Jacob is becoming an outstanding railroad photographer, as his father, David Trenn, has achieved. The Trenn's are familiar to those frequenting the Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad Messageboard.

Dennis Mead announced that board member Huntington Christie has requested to resign from the

board of directors. Following a short discussion, and an agreement among the board, President Mead will respectfully accept Huntington's resignation.

The board didn't look far for Hunt's replacement. Jack Sheets nominated John Snyder as a replacement. Tom Collard made a motion to appoint John to fill the seat. Jack seconded the motion. The motion was carried through a unanimous vote of the attending members.

The board continued discussions regarding one or more bus trips. Carl Timko received emails from Anderson Coach. Anderson's said they would need the exact itinerary as coach price is based on date of use, hours needed, the destination, and time of departure. April and May are the most expensive time of the year. Weekdays are less expensive than the weekends; Mondays and Tuesdays are the least expensive. A plan to pick up members from Greenville and / or North East museums to fill the seats on the bus is being explored.

Other possible bus trips include railroad venues, such as museums and trainwatching hotspots. It was noted that the Arcade and Attica has reopened its line to Attica after a new customer located along the railroad. The railroad is repainting its equipment and has the steam locomotive

back in service.

This may be a viable bus trip along with the Northern Ohio Railway Museum of Chippewa Lake, Ohio, Horseshoe Curve and the Altoona Railroader's Museum.

Any member with suggestions for a bus trip, please contact Dennis Mead by email at dennismead@verizon.net, Carl Timko at blebuddy@yahoo.com, or any of the board members. All suggestions will be considered.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the board and general membership will be Thursday, March 18, 2010, at 6:00 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

Hope to see you there!

