

# The Second Section

Minutes from the May 20, 2010 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:04 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 Dennis Mead, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Larry Johnson, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Dan Higham, Denis Manross, and Lee Greenfield. Al Reibel stopped in before the meeting started.

## *Treasurer's Report*

The treasurer's report, submitted respectfully by Ed Cronin, via email, was read by Secretary Carl Timko. Noted were the current balances and expenses. Expenses included the Erie Insurance policy which is now paid in full for the rest of the year. Bill and Yetivemarie McComas has paid for the printing of the Spring 2010 newsletter. Thank you, Bill and Yetivemarie! Pipp Graphics is expected to send the board a bill for their layout work on the newsletter.

A reminder to the membership: your dues are to be paid by June 30, 2010 for the coming year, with the exception of those who recently joined the organization.

We welcome three new members since February 20,

2010. They are Jacob Trenn, David Christoph, and Lee Greenfield. Welcome aboard, Jacob, David, and Lee!

## *Committee Reports* *-Historical/Archives-*

Photos that were recently donated showing Meadville Yard from atop the Erie RR coaling tower were placed in frames by Dennis Mead.

A color photo showing Meadville Yard as it was towards the declining years of steam was retrieved via the internet, for archival purposes only.

Tom Collard donated a notebook of Conrail freight card schematics. Some of the schematics show designs from the Erie Lackawanna, Pennsylvania Railroad, as well as Conrail's own.

## *-Museum-*

A brief report on the current status of the museum planning project was read by the secretary. Also noted were the preference of sites by planning project contractor, Bob Good of Pashek & Associates. He listed the former A&GW building on Bessemer Street as first, followed by the 84 Lumber Co. site, the Erie Railroad freight house, and lastly the Pomona Park site, where the caboose now is on display.

Tom Collard proposed, in absentia, the FCVRRHS board pass a motion

supporting the Erie Railroad freight house as its choice for the Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad & Tooling Museum project. A discussion on or if the building is in a flood plain, and the advantages of the design of the freight house against high waters.

It was suggested for extra space to rebuild the platforms that had existed and bring in boxcars to use as display and storage cars. John Snyder made the motion to support the freight house for the museum project; Dan Higham seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the attending membership. The statement will read follows: The French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society supports the former Erie Railroad freight house as the structure to house the Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad and Tooling Museum.

Appointments to view the freight house are available during the specified weekdays, between the hours of 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

## *-Property/Equipment-*

The #518 did not get moved as yet, according to the president of the Ashtabula Carson & Jefferson Railroad, Bob Callahan. The AC&J has been busy with current and new customers as well as repairing transloading

devices that were vandalized.

No word has been received from any contractors to haul the locomotive. Also no word as to when the display track will be finished that the #518 will rest upon.

### *-Special*

#### *Events/Programs -*

Techfest was held May 12, at PMI. Over 20 schoolbuses were present with over 700 children to participate in the various hands-on experiences. Ed Cronin brought a model railroad switching layout that was a big attraction to the kids. The Johnson-Shaw Stereoscopic Museum had a stereoscope viewer and cards for the crowd to try out. A virtual railroad, using a laptop computer and monitor attracted many interested bystanders. These displays were made all the more professional by banners Crawford County Convention and Visitor's Bureau's Kevin Parson had made. Very nice!

Dennis Mead thanks all those who helped out with the Techfest, including Ed Cronin, Bill McComas, John Snyder, Larry Johnson, any others that helped, even for a short time.

A reminder, the annual dinner and business meeting will be at the Italian Civic Club, on Water Street, Meadville, beginning at 6:00 p.m., with a presentation by former WNYP/Conrail/Erie

Lackawanna employee, Stephen M. Timko, Jr., who also is an author of many railroad books. All those wanting to attend, please call or email Tom Collard (814-853-2942 or [tcollard@ymail.com](mailto:tcollard@ymail.com)) or Carl Timko (814-337-4307 or [blebuddy@yahoo.com](mailto:blebuddy@yahoo.com)). Only 30 seats are available.

There will be a weathering clinic held at @ the Bank, 940 Park Avenue, Meadville on Friday June 11, at 6 p.m. Al Notarione will be the instructor. The clinic costs \$8 to attend. Email or call Tom Collard to reserve your seat.

The bus trip to the Western Reserve Model Railroad Museum is still tentative. Jack Sheets attended the spring train show and noted it was disappointing when compared to the show at Erie's Rainbow Gardens.

There will be a members-only tour of the Johnson-Shaw Stereoscopic Museum, at 423 Chestnut Street, next the Crawford County Historical Society, in October.

Dan Higham announced the official opening of the Cambridge Springs trolley station and museum will be November 29, which marks the 100th anniversary of the original opening of the station. It is possible the model railroad layout could be displayed at the station, depending on how many other displays and activities are present.

The caboose will be open

on Monday, May 31, with Dennis Mead conducting the tour. The caboose will be open also on June 20, with Ken Springirth selling and signing books, July 4, August 1 with Thomas and Ken Kraemer selling and signing books, and September 5 at which time the event planned is a poker run. Thomas Kraemer agreed to donate a portion of proceeds from every sale of a book to the FCVRRHS. Thank you, Thomas!

Dennis Mead announced a PT Cruiser cruise-in will not happen.

### *-Public Relations/ Education-*

The Spring 2010 newsletter, "*The Valley Express*" has been published and should be well on its way to every member of the organization.

A model railroad group, known as the I-80 Group will have a get-together at Scott Wilson's residence in Oil City on June 12. Scott is a member of the FCVRRHS and is looking to have a representative from the FCVRRHS to attend and explain what the organization is all about. John Snyder expressed interest in the event.

Dennis Mead made special mention to keep area radio station, Cool 101.7 fm up to date with all of the events of the organization.

Carl Timko inquired about placing an ad for the caboose tour on

Armstrong's Ad Channel. The first ad will or has appeared May 27 through May 29.

Flyers for the caboose tour and Ken Springirth's book signing were reviewed and will be distributed around town.

*-Membership-*

Dennis Mead presented a wooden model of a Meadville trolley that was built by Richard Yeager of Erie. Mr. Yeager donated the trolley to the FCVRRHS. The model was donated by the FCVRRHS to the Crawford County Historical Society for the purpose of displaying it at the Cambridge Springs trolley station and museum when it opens. Dan Higham accepted the model.

*-Other events-*

The Wildcat Regiment Band will be performing at the Academy Theatre on Chestnut Street in Meadville, on Monday, May 31.

The Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad Historical Society was formed on April 24, at Thiel College in Greenville, PA, with the FCVRRHS's own Nate Clark, Ed Cronin, and Larry Johnson attending the initial meeting.

*- Next meetings-*

The next meeting is the annual dinner, June 17, as mentioned before. July's meeting will be Thursday,

July 15, 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.

