



The Second Section



Minutes from the October 21, 2010 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:32 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry and Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

Attending the meeting were Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Larry Johnson, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Tom Collard, Al Reibel, Gene Vilkie, Wayne Brown, Denis Manross, and new member Butch Snyder. Mr. Snyder is a retired Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad employee.

The board read and approved the minutes of the September 16, 2010 meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin disclosed the current balances to the attending membership. Ten members have been sent their final notices.

The French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society welcomes six new members. They are Butch Snyder, Dr. Robert Cupper, Michael Gillingham, Christopher Manning, Darius Dempsey, and David Manning. Michael, Christopher, and Darius are junior members. Welcome aboard to all!

Committee Reports *-Historical/ Archives-*

During the August 1 caboose tour and book signing with Tom and Ken Kraemer, Mr. Jackie Ramsay donated to prints of an Erie Lackawanna transfer caboose. Discussions in previous meetings brought forth a T-series caboose still in existence, though with out any frame or trucks, in or near Hornell, NY. This is caboose # T-10. A subsequent websearch over the internet found another former EL transfer caboose, the #T-23, with its frame and trucks. It is being used as an ice cream stand and gift shop at the West Canada Creek Campsites in Poland, New York. Secretary Carl Timko wrote the campsite a letter stating an interest in the caboose by the organization, should the campsite ever decide to dispose of it. The EL transfer cabooses, # T-10 through # T-34, were built in Meadville's program car shops in 1969. The cabooses were retired by the advent of Conrail in 1976.

The board and attending members discussed having a calendar produced as a way of raising funds. Dennis Mead said Mike Vickey, who has been producing calendars, including some for the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society, recommends a twelve month calendar over an 18 month calendar. His prices to publish a calendar were

reviewed. Several different weights of paper and bindings are available, as well as two different sizes. Prices given were for 100 count and 200 count batches. The calendar is likely to be all black and white photos, but a suggestion of a color cover and black and white photos on the inside was made. Dennis suggested a calendar committee to be formed to begin the process of creating a calendar for the year 2012. Dennis Mead, Al Reibel, Denis Manross, and Carl Timko all volunteered to form the committee.

- Property/Equipment-

The status of the #518 was discussed. The ALCO S2 is waiting for the Ashtabula Carson & Jefferson crews to remove the components they need, and switch the trucks with another S2. The AC&J just finished the scrapping of a Detroit Edison U30C at their facility. The AC&J has made a deal with Horizon Rails to scrap an undisclosed SD18. The AC&J was to include in their proposal to use equipment to remove the parts from the #518.

It was determined that the trucks, when removed, be trucked to Meadville and set on the display site, as soon as possible. With winter creeping in, the cab of the #518 will need to be covered so as not to have the interior deteriorate any more than it

has. A discussion of what parts will need to be removed and what has been removed was reviewed. Terry Martin has sandblasted and painted the headlight housings. The hood, hand rails, and radiator grills already have been sandblasted and painted.

The board discussed possible haulers, including Silk Road Transportation, Winter, and Delta for bringing the S2 home. Also discussed was the services of heavy duty cranes to set the locomotive on its trucks and display track.

Good news regarding the caboose and display track. Thanks to the crew of Ed Cronin, Terry Martin, Wayne Brown, Butch Snyder, and Jim Artello of Albion, the caboose was moved to the new track, while the old track was lifted, leveled and ballasted. The caboose was then moved back to its original position. Mr. Artello used his tractor to help finish the job. A job well done!

More good news was the announcement that the electricity to the caboose is now on. Floodlights are planned to be installed around the caboose. The organization will have to secure a permit from the city of Meadville to install the lights, according to Jack Sheets. We also can now decorate the caboose for Christmas.

Nate Clark sent word and photos that the former

Pennsylvania Railroad X29 class steel boxcar seems to have seen its last days as a storage facility. The boxcar is seen in the photo without one truck and sitting on the ground. A motion to attempt acquisition was voted down by the majority of the attending members.

There still is interest in the former PRR baggage/tool car that was in Meadville. The car is reported as going to be heading to the Altoona Railroader's Memorial Museum. The interest by the FCVRRHS is such that an inquiry will be made to Carl Belke of the Western New York & Pennsylvania Railroad.

Nate Clark established a point of contact through Brian Yedinak of Penndot, for signage at Pomona Park. Signs are needed to direct visitors down Water Street Extension, as many people have complained that they didn't know where to turn to visit the caboose. The contact's name is Marilyn Black. Tom Collard mentions that Meadville City Council needs to reevaluate the signage in the city, as there are some signs that need updated. Tom volunteered to talk with members of the city council. The city also would need to approve the sign before any is erected.

*-Public Relations/
Education-*

"Valley Express" editor Bill McComas will make a few additions to the newsletter after which it should be at Staples to be published next week.

(Editor's note: The newsletter is out and has been sent to each member)

Two hundred fifty copies have been ordered

The train show at Rainbow Gardens, Waldameer Park, in Erie, PA is Sunday, November 7, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The FCVRRHS will have a table to sell t-shirts and memberships. Members are welcome to bring items to sell at the table. Volunteers are welcome to relieve others who would like to take in the show for a few minutes. Carl Timko, Dennis Mead and possibly others will be manning the table.

The discussion of selling merchandise evolved into the possibility of selling merchandise through the website. It was determined that the webmaster will need to be contacted to gather the information needed to start selling merchandise, such as t-shirts, along with memberships, and accepting donations.

Tom Collard announced the the First Friday in Meadville, for November 5 will have an arts and crafts theme. His event will be located in the @ the Bank shops, located at 940 Park Avenue , Meadville. Junior members

Brandon Simonette, Mike Gillingham, and Ian Parker will be demonstrating how to assemble laser-cut structure kits.

Three thank you letters were sent to Richard Yeager, Tom Yoset, and Ken Springirth. Mr. Yeager built and donated a scale model of a Meadville trolley, which was then donated to the Crawford County Historical Society for use at the Cambridge Springs trolley station. Mr. Yoset donated an N-scale model railroad layout, which may be used this holiday season. Mr. Springirth appeared at the September 5 caboose tour and sold and signed his books. The FCVRRHS received a portion of the proceeds from his sale. Many thanks to Richard, Tom, and Ken.

An email was sent to a Mr. Whitehead of the Norfolk Southern Railroad, regarding the availability of the PRR X29 class boxcar that is in Ferrona Yard. This was before the board voted to not pursue the boxcar.

A letter from Connie Walrath was received requesting if the organization would accept a railroad police uniform coat as a donation. Dennis Mead will contact Ms. Walrath to accept the coat.

-Museum-

Ed Cronin reported that some members of the

museum board visited the Venango Arts Science and Industrial Museum in Oil City, recently. The museum board received several documents from the Oil 150 board to pattern for the upcoming capital campaign. The board met with KP Consulting's Karen Petrucelli at the October board meeting. Ms. Petrucelli was instrumental in fundraising for the Meadville Medical Center's new oncology center as well as Linesville's Active Aging facility. Ms. Petrucelli recommends that the board back away from pursuing the freight house as the museum site.

There has been no further developments from Dan Higham regarding contacting the DeArments about the availability of the freight house. Ed Cronin made the motion to wait to see if the other two sites (84 Lumber and the Bessemer Building) become available, before continuing any efforts to secure the freight house. The motion was seconded by Tom Collard and carried by an unanimous vote of the attending members.

The current asking price for the 84 Lumber property was disclosed, as well as the costs for a Phase II evaluation for clean up and the actual clean up. The Economic Progress Alliance is willing to work out a deal with the museum board to work out a deal in which the 84 Lumber

property would be bought and paid for, then sold to the Economic Progress Alliance, where the EPA would solicit and obtain grants to do the Phase II evaluation and cleanup. The Economic Progress Alliance would then sell the property back to the museum for one dollar.

The revised museum partnership resolution was read and included a new termination clause in the event the museum was not built or acquired within sixty months of the signing date. A motion to accept the revised resolution was made by Ed Cronin and seconded by Al Reibel. The motion carried by an unanimous vote of the attending members.

- Model Railroad -

The N-scale layout, donated by Tom Yoset and received by Bill McComas and Tom Collard, is currently stored in the U.S. Bronze cafeteria with the HO layout. A decision will be needed of which layout will be featured this holiday season. The board is looking for a site to display either or both layouts. Possibilities include the Downtown Mall, @ the Bank, a vacant store, or the trolley station. Tom Collard said he would talk to several merchants about the possibility of displaying one of the layouts.

All scale committee chairpersons are requested to write a resume' of their

modeling experiences in their respective scales.

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-Next Meeting-

All members, please be advised that the next board and general membership meeting will be Thursday, November 18, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., at the Johnson-Shaw Stereoscopic Museum, located at 423 Chestnut St., Meadville, PA. This is a one-time meeting location, through the generosity of Larry Johnson and his cousins. Attending members will have the opportunity to see what the museum has to offer. The Johnson-Shaw Stereoscopic Museum preserves and displays viewers and slides of the old Keystone View Company, as well as documents and other artifacts.

The following meetings will again be in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc.

