



The Second Section



Minutes from the July 15, 2010 meeting

Treasurer Ed Cronin, subbing for president Dennis Mead, called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:11 p.m., in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

In attendance were: Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Larry Johnson, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, and Tom Collard.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin disclosed the cash on hand, what was restricted and what was unrestricted. The amount left in the 518 Fund was also reported.

Committee Reports *-Property/Equipment-*

No progress has been reported with the remainder of the locomotive waiting to be shipped to be sandblasted and painted. The AC&J Railroad has not moved the locomotive or removed the prime mover or other requested components. The hood and railings and other smaller parts have been sandblasted and painted and are stored. Terry Martin will sandblast and finish the headlight shells.

No progress was reported regarding the trackwork at the display site. A discussion on how to do the

work ourselves came up with other solutions. One was to ask Darwin Derland to do it. Ed Cronin offered to pay the amount if it was in a reasonable price range. Tom Collard said he would call Mr. Derland to make the offer. The other solution was to ask Wayne Brown to supervise if other members would take it upon themselves to finish the trackwork.

The electric routing to the caboose has yet to be completed. The grounding rods still need to be installed, electric cable needs run to the caboose, outlets installed and Penelec needs contacted.

Mrs. Elaine Bingham wrote to the organization about some railroad paperwork a friend is willing to donate. Also, some passenger car windows her daughter has stored have been offered. Carl Timko is trying to contact her by phone. Her son informs us she has a busy schedule and to keep trying. Tom Collard will ask WNYP executive Carl Belke about Wes Weiss's passenger cars; if he has any left in the area, if he is interested in windows, and if we could trade for a passenger car to use for excursions.

Carl Timko donated a slide and movie projector screen to the organization. The

slideshow presentation at the annual dinner, by Steve Timko, showed a need for a projection screen, as the presentation was shown on the wall at the dinner. John Snyder has a projector he may be willing to donate.

-Museum-

The museum committee received the completed feasibility study and business plans from Ann Barton Brown and Pashek Associates. Bob Good of Pashek Associates, made recommendations and notes regarding four possible sites of the museum. The 84 Lumber Co. was noted as having the largest amount of room and parking, but having environmental issues, which would result in the museum becoming a \$4 million project.

The Erie freight house at 19019 Cochran Road, Meadville, was assessed by Mr. Good, even though he did not get to tour the building. The building has an area of 4280 square feet on the first floor, 1920 square feet on the second floor, for a total of 6200 square foot inside. The second floor is accessed by stairways, but no elevator. The site sits on 1.9 acres, and was thought to be in a floodway. A tour by members of the FCVRRHS is scheduled for Friday, July 16, at 10:00 a.m.

Pomona Park is the least favorite site for the museum, according to Mr. Good.

There is not enough room and it sits in the flood zone.

The Bessemer building is Mr. Good's most favorable site, due to the size and parking.

Ed Cronin met with Mark Turner of the Economic Progress Alliance about the possibility of leasing space currently occupied by the Economic Progress Alliance and the Douglas Center, which totals 5100 square feet of space combined. The Regional Center for Workforce Excellence currently leases 3100 square feet that is adjacent to the Douglas Center and the Economic Progress Alliance, and is thought that the Foriska shop would fit in here. The lease is due in July 2011. If the building were purchased, it is assumed the Northwestern Pennsylvania Railroad and Tooling Museum would assume all leases. Two ways of financing the purchase of the building were discussed. The USDA has a program by which the interest would be 4% over 40 years with no down payment, or 30 years, with no down payment for \$900,000, which would be an annual payment of over \$53,000 per year.

Ed Cronin talked with a representative from Erie Bank, who informed him they could do a loan with

\$150,000 down, at 5.6% interest over 20 years. That would amount to a \$63,000 per year mortgage payment. Ed asked Mr. Turner what the asking price of the building would be, but Mr. Turner did not have that answer.

- Historical Archives -

In response to reading of the research of the 1939 Erie Railroad wreck in Meadville, that appeared in the last "*The Valley Express*", member Ben Bartlett emailed the secretary three photos of that same wreck. They offered different views of the wreck. Mr. Bartlett said he would look for the negatives and offer them to the FCVRRHS if he found them. Thank you, Ben!

- Public Relations/ Education -

For those that have Armstrong Cable, an ad has been running on the Ad Channel, (channel 36), the three days before our caboose tour. The next ad should start running on July 29.

The bull session at @the Bank on July 9 brought three members : Brandon Simonette, Tom Collard and Carl Timko. Brandon brought in two cars he very nicely weathered.

The weathering clinic with Al Notarione on June 11, attracted 9 hobbyists,

including 8 FCVRRHS members, and one non-member.

The organization received an offer from the webmaster of the Beaver-Lawrence Railway Historical Society, Holdstill Productions, to update the website and host it on iPower. It would cost \$175 to update, plus \$4.95 per month, as opposed to the nearly \$10 per month that is now being paid. There would be an added fee of \$6 each for updating events, links, changes in the president or vice president, etc. A motion to accept the offer from Holdstill Productions was passed by the attending members.

- Special Events/ Programs -

The annual dinner and business meeting of June 17, had Steve Timko, Jr. as guest speaker. His presentation was on the Western New York & Pennsylvania's birth, struggles, and victories in acquiring businesses and updating the infrastructure. Mr. Timko was presented with a one year honorary membership to the FCVRRHS for his presentation.

The June 20 caboose tour with Ken Springirth appearing to sell and sign his books, resulted in only two books being sold, but the conversations were interesting and enlightening.

The caboose tour of July 4 brought 15 visitors, hosted by Dr. Tom Barratt. Some of the visitors requested contact information to arrange a tour at a later date.

The August 1 caboose tour will have railroad authors Thomas and Ken Kraemer selling and signing their books. Thomas authored "*The Bessemer and Lake Erie Railroad - A Tribute*". Ken has authored "*The Lehigh Valley - A Photo Album*" and "*The Buffalo Central Terminal - A Photo Album*". A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the books will be donated to the FCVRRHS. So, come on out, bring friends, and help out the Kraemers and the organization. The caboose will be open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The planned poker run for September 5 is not materializing. A motion to cancel the poker run was made, seconded and passed by the attending members. The caboose will still be open on September 5, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed for this date.

-Membership-

Membership dues were to be in by June 30. Thirty four members are still late with their dues. Ed Cronin is in the process of sending out notices.

The election of officers at the annual dinner and business meeting resulted in

all incumbents being reelected. Terms are for two years each.

Complaints were heard with regard to the date of the annual dinner coinciding with the Thurston Classic hot-air balloon event. A motion was made to change the date to the third Thursday in May. Other reasons given were most members will not be on vacation, not as many summer events going on, and the weather should be cooler. The motion carried by unanimous vote of the attending members. The 2011 annual dinner and business meeting will be May 19, 2011.

-Next Meeting -

The next board and general membership meeting will be Thursday August 19, 2010, in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA

