



The Second Section



Minutes from the November 18, 2010 meeting

President Dennis Mead called the board and general membership meeting to order at 6:28 p.m., at the Johnson-Shaw Stereoscopic Museum, located at 423 Chestnut St., Meadville, PA. The meeting was held here out of courtesy of Larry Johnson and his cousins.

Attending the meeting were Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Larry Johnson, Bill McComas, Tom Collard, John Snyder, Jack Sheets, Wayne Brown, Butch Snyder, Denis Manross, Dwayne Jindra, Tom Barratt, and Dan Leech.

Before any business was attended to, Dennis Mead thanked Larry Johnson for hosting the meeting. It gave those attending a chance to see what the Johnson-Shaw Stereoscopic Museum was all about, including its memorabilia and how it was displayed.

The approval of the minutes from the October 21, 2010 meeting was the first order of business. Tom Collard made the motion to approve the minutes as they read. The motion was seconded and carried by an unanimous vote of the attending membership.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin reported on the current balances. He also disclosed the income from the Rainbow

Gardens train show in Erie, earlier this month. Also reported was a bill from Penelec that will need to be adjusted as Penelec charged for 1000 kilowatt hours, even though the electricity hasn't been used yet.

Committee Reports *-Historical/Archive-*

Dennis Mead sent letter to Carl Belke of the WNYP RR inquiring if another party is interested in the baggage/tool car that used to sit in Meadville Yard. Dennis wrote that the FCVRRHS is interested in acquiring it.

There has been no calendar committee yet. There was a meeting planned after the museum board meeting for November 8, but the meeting was cancelled. Photos will be gathered and selected for use as a theme on the calendar. Some photos may be used from an Erie Railroad steam locomotive book that belongs to Hunt Christie.

-Property/Equipment-

The status of the caboose and display site was discussed. The north end of the track still needs to be raised six inches and leveled. More ballast stone will be needed.

The flood lights have yet to be installed. Member Al Reibel is to do the wiring. A permit from the city of

Meadville has been obtained to have the lights on. After installation, the work is required to be inspected.

Jack Sheets, who has been taking care of the grounds at the display site, asked for someone else to mow the grass, starting next spring. Jack is in need of a knee replacement and the mowing makes it difficult for him. Anyone wishing to volunteer to mow the site is encouraged to come forward.

Butch Snyder has some equipment, such as an oil lamp, that he is willing to loan to the organization, as long as he can get a written agreement, stating as such. The board agreed to have the letter written.

There has been no further report of the situation regarding signage for the display site.

There has been no further progress with the #518 project. The locomotive is still sitting on a track in Jefferson, Ohio, waiting for the motor, generator and other components to be removed by the AC&J Railroad. The AC&J is waiting for another locomotive, an unidentified SD18, to arrive for scrapping. They were to use the same crane that they will use for scrapping the SD18, for lifting the components out of the S2. In the meantime, the board agreed

that the cab of the #518 will need protected from the winter weather. It is thought that plywood and 2" x 4" 's would be adequate to cover the windows. A date to do the work is undetermined, but it is planned to meet next week to take measurements of the windows.

-Public Relations/ Education-

The Erie Times-News had an article in the November 18 edition of a new track being laid in Erie. The new line is to be 5,400 feet long and is for a facility belonging to National Lime & Stone of Findlay, Ohio. They plan to ship stone from Ohio to the Erie facility for use in construction and reconstruction of roads and parking lots. It is expected the line will be in operation within a few weeks. Erie Times-News reporter Jim Martin, released the story.

The First Friday event at Tom's Train Terminal went well according to Tom Collard. Bob Lane brought in an HO scale trestle to show. Junior members Brandon Simonette, Ian Parker, and Mike Gillingham demonstrated how to build laser-cut structures. Photos were taken of the event.

The railroad bull session the following Friday also went well according to Tom, with several people attending.

Ed Cronin brought in a

book, titled "*The Last Train*" to be reviewed by the board for possible use as a fundraiser. The book is written especially for children. Possible retail price is \$17.00.

The organization needs to order more t-shirts, as we are down to under twenty, not including those at the Crawford County Convention and Visitors' Bureau. A quote was received recently from Steve Bell of IMPR, who produced the last batch of t-shirts. The shirts featured the EL caboose on the front along with "French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society" printed across the front of the shirt. Ed Cronin made the motion to order twenty-four more t-shirts; Jack Sheets seconded the motion. The motion carried by an unanimous vote of the attending members. The secretary will submit the order as soon as possible.

The status of the website (www.fcvrrhs.org) was update. It seems the email links to the officers' home email addresses is down due the inactivity of said links in the past 90 days.

More information is needed to begin selling merchandise from the website. One of the items discussed was whether obtaining a credit card to use with PayPal should be considered.

Dennis Mead received a letter from the Friends of the

Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad. It was an invitation to join their group to support the C&TS, which uses steam locomotives to haul their excursions over former Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad narrow gauge trackage in Colorado and New Mexico. Basic memberships are available for \$30. Other rates are also available. Anyone who is interested in joining may contact the secretary, Carl Timko, by email at blebuddy@yahoo.com.

-Model Railroad-

Tom Collard received permission from Ed Fine to have the N scale model railroad layout on display in the @ the Bank shopping facility. The layout still needs tested to make sure it will run. Tom is assembling benchwork to support the layout. Jack Sheets donated an N scale locomotive.

The HO scale layout will be at a storefront in the Downtown Mall in Meadville. The location in the mall is the same store that the layout was displayed in two years ago, next to Fox's Sew and Vac. Jack Sheets asked the mall manager, Joe Mazzone, for three keys to be assigned to Jack, so members who are attending the layout, will not have to hunt down mall personnel to unlock the door.

The schedule for the layout

will be Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, starting with the first weekend in December. An update will be posted by the secretary as to the hours. Help will be needed to load and unload the layouts and reassemble them to working order.

As in years past, the FCVRRHS will again be raffling off a train set to benefit the Toys for Tots campaign. Tickets are still \$1.00. We hope to do as well as last year, as many families have had a tough going this year, and are hard-pressed to be able to afford gifts for their children.

The Clarion Model Railroad Club now has its Christmas show going on. It is located in the Clarion Mall, next to Kmart. The club has several G scale trains running, as well as O scale, HO scale, N scale and Z scale. They also have an eight-module HO layout that is wired for DCC (Digital Command Control). A small flea market is inside as well as a small model railroad flea market, free magazines on a table in the back and a temporary hobby shop. Some members of the FCVRRHS have already been down to see the event. Members of the Clarion Model Railroad Club are on hand and have demonstrations to share as well.

Next Meeting

Ed Cronin made a motion to cancel December's meeting, due to the closeness of the holiday to the normal meeting date. The need to attend to the layouts is also a reason to cancel. The motion was seconded by Tom Collard. The motion carried by an unanimous vote of the attending members.

The next meeting will be January 20, 2011, 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.

The president and board of the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society wishes each member and their families a very Happy Thanksgiving. We hope to see you at the layout displays .

