



The Second Section



Minutes from the April 21, 2011 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 & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

In attendance were Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl Timko, Bill McComas, Larry Johnson, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Tom Collard, Denis Manross, Lee Greenfield, Scott Wilson and his wife, Kim, Stanley Niwa, Butch Snyder, Wayne Brown, and guest Bob Motzing.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ed Cronin read the current financial report to the board and attending members, disclosing current funds on hand, expenses, credits, new memberships, and cash donations. The expenses were for the rental of the space for the model railroad club in the @ the Bank shopping complex, and for insurance at the caboose. The credit was from Penelec for non-usage of the electricity at the caboose.

Model Railroad Committee chairman Tom Collard read his report on the finances for the model railroad club. Included were dues received, sales, expenses and current balances. Expenses were from the space rental and lumber for the layout.

Committee Reports

-Historical / Archives-

Ms. Connie Walrath recently donated her father's Erie Railroad police uniform coat and two Erie Railroad employee rule books. She will look for more of her father's collection to donate.

No report, as yet, from Dan Higham regarding a marker for next year's Erie Railroad 150th anniversary of its arrival in Meadville.

-Property/Equipment-

Nine and three quarter tons of stone were delivered by Jason Weston to the display site, to finish off ballasting the track. Mr. Weston donated his cost of hauling the stone. Jack Sheets and Bernie Hanmore purchased and donated the stone for the display site.

The board and attending members discussed getting a tractor to the display site to spread the stone. Ed Cronin will email the membership the schedule of the work session.

Jack Sheets will renew the six month permit from the city of Meadville for additional electric work.

It was noted that the caboose can use a wax job, especially before next spring.

The signal mast that the Lake Shore Railway Historical Society donated, is still in North East. It was said that Ray Grabowski of

the LSRHS, would deliver the mast. If need be, members will be recruited to go up and haul it down to Meadville. Preparations required for the erecting of the signal mast include digging the hole for the foundation, pouring the foundation, and setting the required hardware.

Dennis Mead found that Duke Energy has a former American Viscose GE 45 ton locomotive for sale through its assets recovery department. There were three units of this type that were purchased by American Viscose for three different plants, including Meadville in April of 1947.

Dennis Mead announced the #518 was moved by the Ashtabula Carson & Jefferson Railroad to their shop from its former spot in the Jefferson yard. The board rescheduled work sessions at Jefferson for Tuesday April 26, and Wednesday April 27.

(editor's note: The schedule later included Thursday April 28). A previous work session had to be postponed due to inclement weather. Volunteers were asked to report to the Meadville Walmart parking lot at 8:30 a.m., rain or shine.

Volunteers will need heavy tools to loosen bolts and remove rivets. The rivets are between the cab and the

hood , where units built later, had springbolts. The discussion also included on how to drain the water that accumulated inside the chassis. The AC&J RR plans to place the prime mover on a concrete pad adjacent to the shop. The crane that was planned to remove the prime mover and components never arrived.

-Public Relations/Education-

Bill McComas and his wife, Yetivemarie donated the cost of publishing the recent newsletter. Thank you, Bill and Yetivemarie!

The website is starting to pay off. Our newest member is the result of his downloading a membership application off of the website.

Discussions of planning a schedule for the opening of the caboos have begun. We definitely will be open June 16 through June 19, during the Thurston Classic balloon event. It was noted that the board should contact the Crawford County Convention and Visitors' Bureau about advertising the caboos on its "nearby attractions list".

A suggestion of renting a portable sign to advertise the caboos being open was made. The cost of such a sign is unknown and should be investigated.

-Special Events/Programs-

The FCVRRHS received an invitation from the Titusville Historical Society to their One-Day Museum, held on Saturday June 11. After discussing the results of previous such events, the board decided not to attend the One-Day Museum this year.

The Lake Shore Railway Historical Society of North East, PA is sponsoring a two day trip to the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan on June 18 and June 19. Deadline to make reservations is April 30. Contact Sid Lewis at 814-899-1892. Cost is \$350 per person.

The Erie Lackawanna Historical Society is planning to have its spring convention in Meadville in 2012. The exact date is unknown. The ELHS event will include a slideshow that normally brings in at least 50 guests.

-Museum-

The committee for the museum has established a website. It can be visited at www.railroadtoolingmuseum.com.

The committee had plans to have the American Viscose #6 steam locomotive come to Meadville for a day. However, due to time

constraints and the need to raise the funds, will delay its appearance until maybe next year.

Some of the museum committee visited the Drake Well Museum in Titusville, for the purpose of viewing its floor plan and getting an idea of what the proposed museum could look like inside. The Drake Well Museum and the Railroad and Tooling Museum have virtually the same amount of area.

Techfest 2011 will be held at the former A&GW Railroad building on Bessemer St., Meadville, PA, on Wednesday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Volunteers will be needed to tend to the layout. It was hoped that railroad related hand tools could be displayed at the event.

-Model Railroad-

Scott Wilson and Tom Collard built the benchwork for the 5' x 3 1/2' N scale layout.

Scott has started a Yahoo group for the model railroad club. It can be accessed at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/fcvmr/>. There are currently seven members on the Yahoo group. Scott will be posting reports on the Yahoo group site.

The model railroad club will be building some permanent layouts. Scott and Tom will put together a clinic on

building the benchwork for a layout.

Scott has photos for sale at Tom's Train Terminal in the @ the Bank shopping complex, Park Avenue, Meadville. The photos will cost \$8.00 each.

Scott announced his next operating session, on his home layout, is May 20, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

It was learned that the Mercer Junction Train Shoppe, of Mercer, PA, will be posting some clinics on their website, which is listed at www.mercerjunction.com.

Bob Motzing, a non-FCVRRHS member, explained his reasons why he needs to sell off his model railroad equipment. He may donate the O Scale layout to the FCVRRHS. One of his intriguing features of the layout was compressed air-operated turnouts.

Ed Cronin was informed that someone had donated some model railroad equipment to the Bethesda Children's Home. Ed and John Snyder will be going to the Home to look at the condition of the equipment. Ed expressed interest in building a layout at the Home, using their equipment, depending on the space needed.

A known model railroader is interested in donating an N scale Erie Lackawanna Railroad layout to the Society. The layout is built on a hollow-core door. Tom

Collard said he would call about the layout.

-Membership-

The FCVRRHS welcomes our newest member, Paul Kulishek of Reisterstown, Maryland.

The annual dinner and business meeting will be held Thursday June 9, 2011 at the Meadville Country Club. The cost for the buffet dinner will be \$24.00 per person. Those wanting to meet for a drink before dinner can arrive at 6:00 p.m.. The dinner will be at 6:30 p.m., with the business meeting, including the officers elections, at 8:00 p.m. Officers that have terms expiring and are up for reelection are President Dennis Mead, Secretary Carl Timko, and three members of the board of directors, Tom Collard, Larry Johnson, and John Snyder. All have served the FCVRRHS very well as well as the other officers and board members.

-Next Meeting-

The next board and general membership meeting will be Thursday May 19, 2011, in the conference room of the U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine, Inc., located at 18649 Brake Shoe Road, Meadville, PA.

