



The Second Section



Minutes from the September 15, 2016 meeting

President Bernie Hanmore called the membership meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the display site in Pomona Park, Meadville, PA.

Attending the meeting were Bernie Hanmore, Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl and Vanessa Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Stan Niwa, Chris Manning, and John Nagurney.

Treasurer's Report

The monthly financial status was read by Treasurer Ed Cronin. The report included balances, income, expenses, and information pertaining to Paypal and automatic deductions. The main expense for the month was for paint for the boxcar. Income included a sale of a hat to one of the members.

Ed then read the obituary of Travis Burge, who passed away in an ATV accident recently. Among his favorite things in life were hockey, ATVs, bull riding, and his tractor that Ed Cronin had given him. After Travis passed, his family designated the French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society as a recipient of any memorials made in Travis's honor. In respect for Travis and his family, Ed proposed we hang a plaque on or in the

caboose. After discussing the subject, the board agreed by unanimous vote, to hang a plaque with Travis's picture in the caboose, so visitors can see who Travis was. The FCVRRHS thanks Travis's family very much and sends its thoughts, prayers and condolences to them.

Committee Reports Budget/Finance

Income is still being generated by our merchandise. The FCVRRHS hats are selling and they have been restocked in advance of the November 6 Erie Train Show. Crew neck sweatshirts also have been ordered. There are still some 2016 calendars that we are selling at a reduced price of \$10. The Erie Railroad book of photographs by Stu Ladner is still in stock. The organization also has 518 tee shirts, polo shirts, and a few caboose tee shirts in stock. The caboose tee shirts will not be reordered due to the cost of a three color print. Hooded sweatshirts are available by ordering through Secretary Carl Timko (blebuddy@yahoo.com) or through the website (www.fcvrrhs.org).

Expenditures in the near future will be for paint and primer for the boxcar, Valley Express

layout and publishing, and the cost of ordering the 2017 calendars. The FCVRRHS will order 60 2017 calendars to be made. This calendar will have the last of the Stu Ladner photographs we have to publish.

It will be priced the same as the 2016 calendar at \$13.50, including sales tax.

Other photographs from other sources will be included.

Historical / Archives

John Nagurney has a slide of two Erie switchers in Meadville Yard that may be used in a future calendar.

The board is looking at the possibility that a new storage and meeting facility may be necessary since U.S. Bronze Foundry & Machine president Dan Higham has retired. Dan still is involved with the company as the owner. If he sells the plant, we may have to move everything that belongs to the FCVRRHS to another place.

Property / Equipment

The restoration on the Bessemer and Lake Erie boxcar is progressing very nicely. The side facing the highway has been painted, leaving the roof and two ends that need painting next. The other side still needs to have the old boards pulled

and replaced with the new ones and then painted. The hardware also has to be reinstalled. The doors will need repaired also, then paint the lettering on the boxcar. *(Editor's note: This statement is as of the date of the meeting. Work has progressed further since then.)*

Bernie Hanmore and Jack Sheets met with the Meadville city manager to discuss their intentions with the bell of Erie Railroad 2-8-4 #3378. The city wanted the FCVRRHS to carry insurance on it, even though it would not be ours or in our possession. The city plans on displaying it in the Downtown Mall, near the A&GW 4-4-0 model that was built by the Erie Railroad shops in 1938. Due to that stipulation, Bernie and Jack would not sign the agreement. The city would not donate it to the FCVRRHS, stating that it would have to go up for public auction, should they want to divest themselves of it.

John Nagurney had good news. He announced that the deed for the Smock property across the street from the railroad display, will be filed on Friday, September 16. The property covers approximately 55 feet by 35 feet of ground. The property will need to be surveyed. Plans are to put at least one railroad car on display there, and maybe a shed for storage. John Nagurney said he would make the arrangements for the property to be surveyed.

The board made an executive decision not to release any more details about the DL&W Russell

snowplow until matters are resolved.

Ed Cronin reminded everyone that the Shenango bridge portal is still in storage at Mercer, PA. He suggested that it be used on an end of the display on the newly acquired lot.

As of this meeting, the #518 still had a plate to be welded on the cab, the black painted touched up and the lettering to be done. *(Editor's note: The painting of the exterior of the #518 is now complete. The photo can be seen on the Facebook page and will be in the "Valley Express" soon.)*

Public Relations / Education

"Valley Express" editor Carl Timko asked for all outstanding submissions that are to be included in the Fall 2016 edition. The newsletter is expected to be sent to Pipp Graphics and Design for layout work before being sent to Staples to be published.

The website is undergoing an upgrade. Carl Timko, passed around a copy of the screenshot of the Property/Equipment page that was produced and sent by webmaster Dianne Jones.

In an interesting occurrence of events, a photo shoot was scheduled for September 18. Mr. Burt Waite asked to have the display area opened up to photograph six ballet dancers in front of the display. Bill McComas also has a pastor from his church who wants to photograph his group for a cd cover. Our efforts are being

noticed by the public now. John Nagurney suggests that we have a release from liability form that must be signed by these groups. John said he would have some ready for the photo shoots.

Special Events / Programs

Since fall has arrived, the train shows are in abundance. October 15, the last Railfanning Day at the Painesville, Ohio Railroad Museum, 475 Railroad St. will start at 10 a.m. and close at 5 p.m. The old New York Central depot is situated along the CSX tracks and has refreshments available, plus a railroad scanner is on for the convenience of the railfans. On October 23, the Buffalo Falling Leaves Train Show will be held at the Polish Falcon building, located at 4555 Columbia Ave., Depew, N.Y. The hours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Erie Train Show at Rainbow Gardens in Waldameer Park will be on Sunday, November 6 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5. The French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society will be there with hats, shirts, calendars, Erie Railroad photo books, and what is left from the inventory donated by Tom Collard of Tom's Train Terminal. Some members are bringing in some of their toys and trains to sell, as well.

Mike Connor, president of the Erie Lackawanna Historical Society has asked if the FCVRRHS could host the Spring 2017 meeting in Meadville. He told Dennis

Mead that preparations for the meeting, held in April, will be handled by the ELHS. The Symposium this year would be on the Atlantic and Great Western Railway's broad gauge. Ed Cronin suggested that the organization of the meeting be handed over to the Crawford County Convention and Visitors Bureau. Members of the FCVRRHS would like to have the option of attending the symposium and / or the dinner. President Bernie Hanmore suggested tabling any action on the proposal for now.

Next Meeting

The next membership meeting is Thursday, October 20, 2016, 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.



*Erie RR #518 in fresh paint,
September 27, 2016
- photo by Carl Timko*