

# The Second Section

Minutes of the March 16, 2017 meeting

President Bernie Hanmore called the membership meeting to order 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.

In attendance were: Bernie Hanmore, Dennis Mead, Ed Cronin, Carl and Vanessa Timko, Bill McComas, Jack Sheets, John Snyder, Stan Niwa, Chris Manning, Mike Lynch, Stephanie Franz, Brian Raybuck, Dave Ellis, Tom Mogush and his father Mike Mogush.

## *Treasurer's Report*

Treasurer Ed Cronin read his summary of the month's financial activities. Balances included cash on hand, restricted funds - consisting of the Heist Foundation Fund, the Bob Bingham Fund, and the Snowplow Fund- and the unrestricted funds. The Erie Train Show provided the organization with a profit, but not as much as the past two shows. It was noted that a donation was received. Expenses included table fees for the Erie Train Show, city property tax and stamps for the newsletters that will be coming out soon.

## *Committee Reports Budget / Finance*

As mentioned in last month's meeting, the FCVRRHS received a grant from the Crawford Heritage Community Foundation for the purpose of hiring a contractor to tie down the snowplow onto a flatcar so it can be hauled to Olean, N.Y. The stipulations were covered in the February 2017 Second Section.

A sample disc of the Erie Railroad Text Book was given to President Hanmore to look over. The disc had five of the 329 files on it. Once the software to protect the information is acquired and installed, the disc will then become available for purchase. FCVRRHS members will be charged \$40 and non-members will pay \$45.

The newly acquired model railroad supplies are starting to sell. Several pieces were sold at the Erie Train Show. There are several Marx cars, locomotives and track and an HO train set that was ordered through the mail. The reason this is known is that the cars, locomotive and track are in the box they were shipped in from AHM. More HO and N scale equipment was brought to the March 16 meeting by John Snyder. The layout donated by Stan Weidner is stored at the U.S. Bronze and will be checked out and refurbished, if necessary, then

taken to the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station for display.

Jack Sheets said funds are still available to use to rent equipment from Lloyd's Rental and Sales. Funds were raised to rent a power washer to clean the trucks on the 518.

## *Historical / Archives*

Carl Timko and John Snyder were to visit Mrs. Audrey Lavery to discuss her employment with the Erie Railroad as well as her family's. It was also planned to talk to Mrs. Lavery about the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus' appearance in Meadville. Carl also planned to ask her to describe the interior of the Meadville depot. There is very little information or photos of the interior, particularly of the first floor. Drawings are available of the second floor, though. (*Editor's note: The meeting occurred on March 17, and went very well. Details of the visit will be mentioned in the April Second Section.*)

## *Membership*

The French Creek Valley Railroad Historical Society welcomes two new members. We welcome Stephanie Franz, who signed up at the end of the February 2017 meeting and Charles Webber, Jr. who

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purchased a family membership at the Erie Train Show. Welcome aboard Stephanie and Charles (and family)! Several applications were handed out at the train show, so there may be more.

## *Model Railroad*

As noted earlier, the newly acquired model railroad layout will need to be freshened up a bit to display it at the trolley station. This committee will also have to refurbish the large layout that is displayed during the holidays from late November to January.

A possible tour of a model railroad may be of Jim Mitch's in Andover, Ohio. Bernie Hanmore will make the announcement possibly at the April meeting.

## *Museum*

Seven glass display cases have been built for mobile exhibits. One is at the vo-tech and one is on display in the Penncrest School District. Others may be sent to the Crawford County School District, Cambridge Springs High School, and the Conneaut School District. They will be rotating exhibits, in the sense that the display cases and their artifacts will be seen at different times in different venues. Ed Cronin asked the membership for any artifacts pertaining to the Erie Railroad.

He asked that members bring their items to the April meeting.

He recommended to use three different size fonts for the displays. The largest to catch the eye of the passer-by, the medium font to provide more detail and the smaller font to provide even more detail to the interested visitor. One exhibit will be the Erie conductor's jacket and hat.

## *Property / Equipment*

Members of the board met with Rick Rowlands, president of the Youngstown Steel Heritage Foundation on March 2 at Perkins' Restaurant, Vernon Township, Meadville, PA. The purpose was to share information as to what will be occurring when the snowplow gets loaded onto a TTX flat car. Rick described all that he will do to tie down the snowplow for safe travel to Olean, N.Y. He asked that he be kept informed of everything pertaining to the snowplow and asked that he be given on week's notice of when the loading will occur. He suggested that his chains be put inside the snowplow to be brought back to him. The board suggested that it insure the shipment of the snowplow to avert any losses should an accident occur. Rick suggested to install a GPS device to track the flat car and snowplow during their journey.

Contact was made with TTX's vice president of equipment, Chelsea Chapman. She advised that before TTX can loan a car, the board must contact a class I carrier to sponsor the shipment. In our case, it would be Norfolk Southern. WNYP Railroad's Carl Belke was given the contact information and will make the necessary contacts to get things lined up to ship the snowplow. The likely route will be from Wellsboro Jct. to Gang Mills, N.Y. to interchange with NS, then to Buffalo, interchange with the Buffalo & Pittsburgh, who will take it to Salamanca to interchange with the WNYP. The WNYP will take it east to Olean to off load the snowplow and set it on its own wheels to haul to Meadville.

The board was advised it is up to the railroad to insure the snowplow, but a conversation with Mr. Belke needs to be scheduled to be sure.

Once the warmer spring weather sets in, work will begin on the B&LE boxcar. The first item on the agenda is painting on the lettering on the side facing the highway. Then the ends will be lettered. Wood siding to finish the re-siding is being purchased. It is expected to arrive in four to six weeks. Wood for the one door is needed, but Stan Niwa may have what is needed. The roof walk and hardware also need to

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be installed. Then the opposite side of the boxcar will need lettered.

It is also expected that the signal head and mast will be erected soon after the concrete base is cast in place.

President Hanmore reiterated that the display site needs to be opened up this year, so help is needed from everyone.

Before the snowplow arrives, the lot that was recently acquired will need surveyed. A quote from an individual was received and approved by the board. Negotiations may begin soon to acquire the adjacent properties. This would give the organization enough room to display the snowplow and the tool car, with some extra room for a storage shed or display area.

Jack Sheets called PENNDOT to ask if the proposal of flying flags along the highway would be detrimental to traffic.

PENNDOT said they would have no problem with it since the flags would be flying only when the display site is open. Mike Vickey, who published the FCVRRHS's calendars and Erie Railroad Photograph book quoted a price that seemed to land in the middle of two companies that are not local, and definitely lower than Al's Awnings of Erie. The flags will be 3 feet by 5 feet in size and single sided. Each one will

have a different logo of a railroad that served Crawford County. The first logos may be of the A&GW, Erie Railroad, B&LE, and the Northwestern Pennsylvania Railway. Stephanie Franz volunteered to buy two flags to help out.

## *Public Relations / Education*

Carl Timko submitted a letter to the editor to ask the public for information regarding the appearance of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in Meadville. He received one response from Mrs. Audrey Lavery, with whom a taped interview was scheduled for March 17. The information was needed for an article appearing in the *Valley Express*. Details of the interview will be mentioned in the next *Second Section*, as mentioned earlier.

Many thanks go out to those that donated model railroad equipment, Mrs. Cheryl Corp (in memory of Mark Phelan), Mrs. Adrienne Geddes, Mrs. Eleanor Davies, Mr. Stan Weidner, and Al Reibel. Thank you all very much. The FCVRRHS depends and appreciates the support from the community.

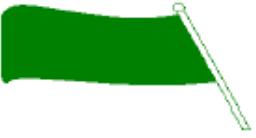
## *Special Events / Programs*

Train shows this month include the Greenberg's Train and Toy Show at the Rochester

Dome Arena on April 1 and 2, located at 2695 East Henretta Rd., Rochester, N.Y. Admission is \$10 on Saturday, \$9 on Sunday. The Spring into Summer Train Show is at the Knights of Columbus, 755 Erie Ave., N. Tonawanda, N.Y. on April 2. The Medina Model Railroad and Toy Show, also April 2, at the Medina County Community Center, 735 Lafayette Rd. (OH State Route 42), Medina, OH. Admission is \$6; there are 250 tables available. The Beaver County Model Railroad & Historical Society Train Show, also on April 2, is at the Monaca Turners Club, 1700 Old Brodhead Rd., Monaca, PA. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is \$5, under 12 free. And the Youngstown Model Railroad Association has their train show at the Salem Center Plex, 1098 N. Ellsworth Ave., Salem, OH. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; admission is \$5.

Train excursions of note that are scheduled this spring include the N&W #611 excursions in North Carolina and Virginia. According to Jack Sheets, the rides are all booked up. That shouldn't stop anyone from taking videos or photos of the train.

The Western Maryland Scenic Railroad will be using the Chesapeake & Ohio 2-6-6-2 #1309 to haul freight and



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excursions. This should be a must see event for every railfan.

### *Next Meeting*

The next membership meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2017, at 6:30 p.m., at the Cambridge Springs Trolley Station, located along U.S. Routes 6 and 19 in town. This will enable members to see the progress of the renovation of the trolley station. See you there!

