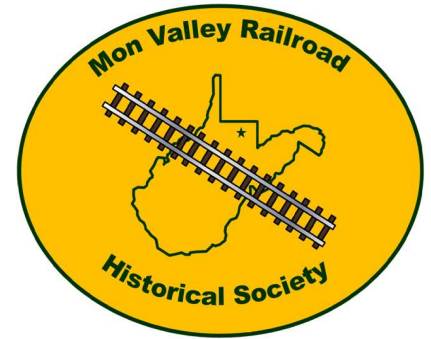


TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

March, 2021



EDITORS NOTE

Wow, what a year! It's hard to believe that we just had our first in person business meeting since March of 2020. At that time we had plans for several Open Houses and hopes of good donations for the coming year. Then you all know what happened. Thankfully, things seem to be back on the right track.

We have had many changes during this past year. Most of them are detailed in the February business meeting minutes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic our election was held digitally via email, that was a First and it worked well. We had two Board of Director's meetings, both in person, the last one with ZOOM help. It let many members "sit in" on the meeting and express their thoughts.

The biggest news was our society's move to a new location. The management of the building on Pleasant Street wanted us to sign a new lease for 5 years and raise our rent. We just couldn't sustain that increase at that location. So we started an aggressive search for a new location. Thankfully the Mountaineer Mall manager came through for us. A much nicer location, warm dry and Handicapped accessible!

There is a new air of positive energy flowing through the society and I feel it. We all know there will be hard work ahead and it will take

time and the dedication of all of us to make it work. This is our Time!

Happy Training,

Rich Henderson, Editor



Minutes of the February 4, 2021 Business Meeting

The February 4th 2021 meeting was called to order at the new Mountaineer Mall location by President Lou Lemelle at 1900 (7pm) with 6 officers and 9 members present. A motion was made by Rich and a second by Kenton to have the March 2020 Business Meeting Minutes approved. The motion was voted on and approved. President Lemelle made opening remarks regarding the move from the Pleasant Street location to the new location at the Mountaineer Mall.

Treasurer's Report: Detailed report made by Keith DeVault. The society continues to meet our financial obligations. Rich made a motion to accept with a second by Eric Hopkins. Motion voted on and approved.

Meeting Minutes continued on Page 2

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**March 4, 2021
Business Meeting**

**April 1, 2021
Business Meeting**

**April 10 & 11, 2021
Spring Model Railroad
Exhibit
Workers Needed!**

**May 6, 2021
Business Meeting**

**June 3, 2021
Business Meeting**

**July 1, 2021
Business Meeting**



Minutes continued from Page 1

Modules: No report given.

Main Layout: What could be saved/salvaged, has been saved to include the Henderson Farm, the horse farm, both coal mines, the mining town, St. George and Wilson's Mills. Lots of trees and a good bit of site details have been packed. Mike is working on saving track and putting it in boxes. The Signal Department is cleaning, repairing, saving, and preparing for the move.

Publicity: Face Book has 644 Likes and 693 following and 23 visitors checked in. During the Downtime due to the pandemic, Rich posted approximately 150 new photos to the Web Site. He expressed gratitude to the following members Frank, Ken, Gary, Keith, Eric Hansmann, Eric Hopkins, Shane, Gregory, Steve K, and everyone else that made contributions.

Ad Cars: No new subscriptions noted. Eric Hopkins is about to begin contacting and resigning subscribers. He suggested a static display might be of value especially at times when the ad car train is not running.

Membership: DUES ARE DUE! Prompt submission of membership dues would aid in the fiscal confidence of the society.

Donations: Rich reported multiple donations as a result of FB. One of the many contributions from Keith and Janet includes a cart to move materials and equipment.

Old Business: No Report.

New Business: Keith reported that an "on line" vote was conducted seeking approval for the society to enter into lease with the

Mountaineer Mall and to occupy space provided by said lease. 24 members of 26 responded in agreement of the move. Keith made an official motion to move from the Pleasant Street location to the Mountaineer Mall. A second to the motion was made by Gary. A vote was put before the members present at the February 2021 business meeting and the motion passed unanimously.

Keith reported Mall hours of operation are 7a-9p Monday thru Saturday and 12 noon to 5pm on Sunday. We have permission to hold 5 Open House events per year. Rich reported that we have permission from the Mall to set up our modular units at Center Court the first weekend after Easter. Display times are Saturday April 10 from 10am until 4pm and Sunday April 11 from 1pm until 4pm. It was suggested we run the Ad Cars in addition to other trains. Gary recommended we rope off the modular to create a safe distance between viewers and the display. Marty is working with the Lock Smith and making secure the pull-down gate.

Presently the front door has a rod bent preventing it from being secured properly. A cable and lock will be put in place. To gain access we will have to open the Lock then raise the gate.

Our lease prohibits painting. We cannot prepare or sell food for public consumption. Curtains have been proposed. It was later suggested they be used to reduce external airflow to reduce the heat and AC needs. The back room is available as workshop though we may have to build a wall. Dave Edwards volunteered to build a workbench. Keith has a received a bid of \$597.43 to get the carpet cleaned. Keith suggested we procure a vacuum that has a beater bar. Rich reports having access to just such a vacuum and he hopes to donate it.

Both Lou and Bill claim to have carpet cleaners that can be used by the members to avoid hiring someone to clean the carpet for us.

Keith stopped the flow of the meeting to make note of and give thanks to all who have participated in the breakdown work at the old location and for those volunteering to get the new location to a condition suitable for occupancy.

Our plumber is 2-3 weeks out from being able to work on our projects. MUB requires a deposit to get our water turned on for the 2 bathrooms. Because we will be ADA compliant, we will need a certificate to occupy from the City of Morgantown, only after a safety inspection has been conducted. This will require a fee of \$65.

We also need fire extinguishers and yes, an inspection by the Fire Marshall. Eric suggested a Safety Committee to ensure monthly inspections of safety devices and equipment be conducted as prescribed/ required. Keith reported an HVAC guy is coming to check out what we have and when weather permits, address our HVAC needs.

At present we have a \$1,000,000 liability insurance policy. The Mall requires a \$2,000,000 policy which will take our premiums from about \$200 to just over \$230. Rich had already made a donation toward this expenditure. After discussion it was confirmed that we will not be insuring contents or personal property.

The main layout on Pleasant Street is down. A junk removal guy quoted \$1100 to remove the scrap. Keith suggested we try to do all or most of it ourselves. To address this issue a work day was set for Saturday 2/6 from 9am until...??? We will need to rent a large U-Haul. Rich made motion we rent a truck.

Meeting Minutes continued on Page 3

Minutes continued from Page 2

Kenton seconded the motion which was voted on and approved.

Pleasant Street wants us out by the end of February. The Mall has carts that won't scuff or damage mall flooring that we can use to move material and items.

Work is underway to procure a grant from BB&T's parent company for a grant that would fund up to \$2,500 per annum. This grant would need to be renewed every year.

We need to purchase a couple of boxes of tiles to replace damaged ceiling tiles. Keith requested \$60 for the purchase. A motion by Rich was made to appropriate \$60 for tiles. Eric put forth a second.

Voted on and approved.

Rich made a motion that room be available for a 30' long "O" scale display. Kenton offered a second. Voted and approved.

It was suggested that the future layout be built as a sectional (not modular) for ease of maintenance and disassembly.

Greg made a motion to include an N Scale layout at some point.

Keith made a second, voted and approved. Keith mentioned that Frank had at one point expressed interest in doing something with N scale.

All signage has to be professionally done.

For the Good of the Order: It was informally agreed on by the officer's present that start time for business meetings should be changed to 7pm instead of 7:30pm.

Motion to adjourn by John Lindsay, second by Bill Hudak. After closing remarks by Lou, the meeting Adjourned at 2015 hours (8:15 pm civilian time).

Greg Malnikoff
Secretary, MVRRHHS



ARTICLES WANTED

Space is available for members to write an article for the newsletter. It may be about your model railroad, a new model you just built or acquired, a railfan trip you recently took or about any railroad related topic. Just type it up and send it to: Rich Henderson, Editor at: trainman430@comcast.net

Please allow two (2) weeks before the next newsletter is published.



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