

Big Train Operators, Summer Board Meeting  
Bird-In-Hand, Pennsylvania  
June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 4:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time

Present: Charles Bartel, President; Jon Molesworth, Scott Fowler, Vice-Presidents; Teya Caple-Woods, David Stachnik, Tim Stump, Directors; Marshall Adams, Convention Chair; John Groot, Treasurer; Bob Somogyi, BTO Editor, Bill Harryman, Secretary. Absent: Ralph Wilcox, VP, David Snow, Membership Chair

Treasurer's Report: As of this date for the year Loss, -(\$712). There were a total of \$35,040 in expenses for the BIH convention. Much of this will be recovered from the various convention events. The Balance Sheet shows assets of \$39,482.40. the August or September P & L statement will provide a better picture of where we stand.

Minutes, & Treasurers Report unanimously approved by voice vote.

Membership Report: submitted electronically by David Snow: "As of the 1st quarterly BOD meeting on Mar 2nd, membership stood at 266. There were 3 new members and 3 reinstated members added, bringing the total membership to 272. There were 6 members deleted from the list due to non-payment of dues. The current membership, as of June 12, 2023, remains at 266."

**Not voted on but will be presented at the next meeting.**

### **PRESIDENTS REPORT & DISCUSSION**

President Bartel reported that fifteen hotels were investigated as a site for the Cincinnati, 2024 meeting. Four had working kitchens, fewer had sufficient meeting rooms, and all were, when all the visible fees were considered, too expensive or contained contract language that was prohibitive to the club. Practical analysis suggests that holding our convention in large cities is becoming impossible. At this point the 2024 convention was canceled. Much discussion ensued.

From this discussion some alternatives began to emerge:

One alternative, (Train Meeting) would rent space for our banquet and for our meetings, and possibly for our white-elephant sales. Day trips could be arranged, but subscribed to and paid for by each individual. The banquet cost would include any group expenses. Room and meals would be the responsibility of each member. An aside, most of the early club meetings were held this way.

A second alternative suggested was to tag on to the National Large Scale Club Annual Meeting. That was shot down because the National Large Scale Club isn't having a 2024 Tour.

A third alternative suggested was to have a reduced 2024 meeting back in Bird-In-Hand. It was felt that since we were here, much of the background work could be done this week

And, as a final alternative: Cancel the 2024 convention. After more discussion a motion was made: "To have a vote to select the best alternative. That motion was seconded, and passed unanimously by voice vote.

The Board then voted: Alternative 1 – try to have the convention in BIH; Alternative 2 – Tag on to Large Scale Meeting; Alternative 3 – Abort the 2024 meeting. Alternative 1 received 8 votes; Alternative 2 – no votes; Alternative 3 1 vote. The motion to try to have the meeting at BIH passed. The Board approved trying to set up a “mini” convention in 2024 in BIH.

Conversation then became, “Who would do what,” “What-If?” and so on. At this point it was then moved to delay any further action until 4 pm Thursday to ascertain the possibility of setting up the 2024 convention with BIH officials and others. This passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Harryman, Secretary