

Second quarter Board of Directors Minutes

Meeting held in Bird-in-Hand Resort conference room, June 14, 2024

Meeting called to order by Tim Stump at 8:32am

Roll Call: Present: Tim Stump, President, Teya-Caple Woods, Vice President, Bill Harryman, Vice President, John Groot, Treasurer & Webmaster, Scott Fowler, Director, Jon Molesworth, Director, Ralph Wilcox, Director, Charles Bartel, Secretary.

Absent: David Stachnik, Vice President, David Snow, Membership Chairman, Bob Somogyi, BTO Editor

Also attending the meeting by invitation: Larry Otis

Motion made to accept the board minutes for March 21, 2024, as reviewed by email and published in the Spring BTO. Motion made by Scott Fowler, seconded by Jon Molesworth. Motion approved unanimously.

Treasurer Report: John reported that we are about \$ 2000 ahead, but still have payments to the hotel to be made. We have about \$ 35,000 in our accounts. Further details to be provided to the board and members at the membership meeting next week. Motion made by Scott Fowler to approve, seconded by Teya Caple-Woods. Motion passed unanimously.

Membership Report: Report submitted by email, read into the records by Tim Stump. From David Snow, membership Chairman, "The membership, as of the 1st quarter board meeting on March 20, 2024, stood at 266. Since that time 12 new members and 3 reinstated members were added, increasing the membership to 281. Out of the 15 members added, 4 came from the Cincinnati train show. There was a total of 9 members deleted, due to non-payment of dues, which brought the final total membership to 272, a net gain of 6". John Groot commented that many members are using PayPal to pay their membership dues. There is a fee to the club to allow for this option. Scott made a motion that the dues for those members using this method of payment should be increased to cover the cost to the club and use the total dues to support the other club activities such as the publication of the BTO. After discussion, the increase was set at \$5.00. Motion approved by Jon Molesworth and seconded by Teya Caple-Woods. Motion passed unanimously.

Based on the membership report, Tim Stump opened a discussion on ways to increase our membership. One issue that we constantly hear when we go to shows either as a club or individually at regional sell and swap meets and local club gatherings is that they (other members of the hobby family) did not know about us or what we did. Tim Stump asked Larry Ottis for his thoughts on the subject. Larry has been promoting the club at various shows, including the two shows at the Big E put on by the Amherst Garden Railway club. He highlighted the need for someone in the club to take on a marketing position to increase our membership. Tim suggested that Larry would be a good candidate to take on such a responsibility as he is already doing this activity unofficially. The board agreed that this would be a position beneficial to the long-term growth of the club. As per the club bylaws, new board members may be appointed to the board. Scott Fowler made a motion to create the position of Marketing Director and asking Larry to accept said position. Teya Caple-Woods seconded the motion. Motion unanimously passed and Larry accepted the position.

Tim Stump passed out pictures to open the discussion for new car offerings for next year. Pictures were from AML and Piko manufactures. We would need to order a minimum of 44 cars from AML. We would place an order for these cars through RDL Hobbies. We are looking at a Georgia location for the 2025 convention. The area has a German heritage, and thus a European style car would support the German heritage. If we choose

a Piko product, the board would need to make a decision today. Charles Bartel made a motion to use the AML grain car. Teya Caple-Woods seconded; motion passed. AML car chosen. Tim had a sample of the car with him which will be shown to the members at the membership meeting.

Convention 2025 Discussion: Tim Stump as president and Convention Chairman has been working with a Holiday Inn Express, Helen, Georgia, to generate a contract for 2025. The contract is offering 40 guest rooms at \$169 per night plus tax. Includes free breakfast and free parking. Tim is looking for a formal contract today. This area is a very popular vacation area and as such, our normal dates in June, which in 2025 would be June 22 to 27 is not available. Thus the 2025 convention has been scheduled for July 13th to the 18th. Since COVID, getting comped meeting room space has been a stumbling block in selecting convention sites, especially with national hotel chains with corporate directives. The Holiday Inn Express has a 3,000 square foot meeting space for our convention. The meeting space will cost us \$1500 for the week. There is no onsite food service for the All-Aboard Party and farewell banquet. Thus, off-site food service will be required. Tim has identified and contacted one for support. The contract includes a two-night comp stay which we can use for a raffle. Scott Fowler moved to have the convention in Georgia at the identified dates. Jon Molesworth seconded; motion passed.

Charles Bartel commented that the Bird-in-Hand location has been good for the club as indicated by the higher attendance this year from last year. Instead of looking for a new location every year, could we come back every third year or so? Something for consideration. Come back here for the 49th.

Further discussion on convention sites continued with information that indicated that in 2026, the Amherst Club might be hosting the NGRC. Over the years, there has been a discussion of having a BTO Convention attached to the NGRC where we could share some activities but still have some of our independent activities such as the Trivia Contest, etc. It would give us a much larger vendor hall with the inclusion of manufacturers that have booths at the National convention. Could the club piggyback onto this convention? We would want to have our own hotel location. Would include visits to home layouts. Frankenmuth, Mi is also a location that Tim has reviewed for the 2026 convention. Larry and Tim will work with John Sacerdote, Show Director, Railroad Hobby Show, Amherst Railway Society, Inc.

Scott Fowler moved to adjourn at 9:30. Charles Bartel seconded. Motion approved.

Addendum to BOD minutes reflecting additional organizational changes.

On July 8th, Tim Stump sent an email to all board members stating "...that I am wishing to appoint Andrew Fitch to be an assistant webmaster that will also transition into full-time webmaster in the coming months." Board members replied to the email agreeing to this appointment.