

Sept. 4, 2019

Minutes of the Board of Directors of the Train Mountain Railroad meeting.

Called to Order by President Jeff Mills at 5:00 PM. The meeting was held in the Hall of Flags and many members attended.

Roll Call of the Board. Present are Jeff Mills, President; Jeff Pape as acting secretary; Steve Panzik, Tom Watson, Jeff Mills, Joyce Merwin, David Waterstreet, Jerry Crane, Dick Miller, and Danny Chamrad.

Election Results presented by John Cooper: Elected to the board were David Waterstreet (114 votes). Steve Panzik (94 votes) and Dick Miller (106 votes). There were 578 ballots and 120 were voted (21%). Tom Watson moved to accept the election results. David Waterstreet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Report regarding use of Election Buddy software to conduct the election. John Cooper reported that the experience was good but not excellent. Some of the emails to members got caught in personal spam filters. He is working on ways to reduce this issue. He recommends continuing to use the system as it reduces the work load in the office. David Waterstreet noted that participation by members improved, this time it was 21%, in the prior election it was 13%. Optional paper ballots will continue. David Waterstreet moved to continue to use the system and Tom Watson seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

Tom Watson raised a point or order regarding the By Laws and the Length of Terms of Officers. The By laws of Sept. 12, 2015 were cited. After discussion it was determined that we are in compliance with the specific by law.

Installation of New Board members. David Waterstreet, Steve Panzik and Dick Miller were seated as members of the board.

Selection of Secretary: Volunteers among the board members were solicited and Dick Miller was suggested. Dick Miller agreed to serve as Secretary. Board approval was unanimous. (Jeff Pape will complete this meeting's minutes and then exit the board)

Accepting the Minutes of the July 2 2019 board meeting. Tom Watson moved to accept the minutes. Steve Panzik seconded and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report by David Waterstreet: David reported that there was an income of \$18,958.51 from the balance sheet. Danny Chamrad moved to accept the report. Dick Miller seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Jeff Mills asked if TMRR uses a budget, David Waterstreet replied that we do not budget at this time but he is working to implement a budget process. Currently we work from last year's usage or income if this year's expenses are within 10% of last year's. Triennial years are different.

Fees for membership and meet participation need to be raised. President Jeff Mills brought up a motion made at the last BOD meeting for a vote. The motion calls for individual meet fees to change from \$35 to \$40 each. The All Meet Fee will not be changed. Today our purpose is to vote on the motion. The voice vote to accept the motion was unanimous.

Jeff Mills asked Tom Watson to present the results of an effort to design new member badges. Tom and Joyce have been working to find affordable badges that will look good and be legible. They showed the members present several options. In discussion it came to a choice between a badge with black background and white letters and a badge with a green background and white letters. The green background appeared to have more membership interest. Tom Watson suggested a vote of preference among the board members. The Green tag won with 5 votes for compared to 2 votes for the black background. Thusly the green background with white lettering was selected.

Reporting Member Obituaries in the Gazette was a suggestion made by Steve Panzik. Tom Watson replied that this is already a goal of the gazette staff but that often it is difficult to obtain timely information when a member passes away. Jeff Mills suggested an article for the gazette outlining the obituary policy as well as the engraved memorial cross tie program. Steve Panzik offered to write such an article.

Jeff Mills asked board members to submit their biographic information to him to aid in preparing an article introducing this year's board members via a gazette article. Dick Miller offered a motion to that effect and it was seconded by David Waterstreet. It passed by a unanimous voice vote. BPD members are asked to submit information to Jeff Mills by October first. Jeff Mills will write the article.

Dick Miller suggests trying to make member access to BOD members easier. It appears that avoiding spam is a problem. Steve Panzik suggested placing a form in the club's web pages for members to use might alleviate the spam problem. Dick Miller moved to have a contact form function as a spam filter. He asks that Dale Furseth be consulted. David Waterstreet seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

President Jeff Mills brought up the matter of train operation safety. There is a noted trend toward safety violations of the basic rules of speed, flagging requirements, running red signals and running trains too close together. Often these rule violations are being performed by some of the most active members. Dick Miller mentioned a possible course of action that would involve speaking to the older members to remind them of their roles at TM of being good examples. John Cooper asked what recourse does the board have? David Waterstreet offered some ideas: put up posters illustrating the 8 basic rules, bring specific violations to the board, consider borrowing the Burma Shave sign and jingle format to promote the safety rules, promulgate a "rule of the day" program, and post special speed limit signs at critical places such as steep downgrades, and junctions with poor visibility. Then David Waterstreet moved that the board develop a safety campaign. Dick Miller seconded the motion which then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

President Jeff Mills recognized Dick Miller who asked to bring up By Law Article 3, Section 1 in regard to dealing with an aggressive member. Dick Miller moved to handle the matter in closed board session and David Waterstreet seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a unanimous voice vote.

The fact that the by laws are not on line per Article 7 was brought up. The matter was referred to the incoming Secretary.

Train Mountain Institute Report, by TMI President Jerry Crane. He is continuing his program explaining TMI and its relationship to TMRR by publishing short articles in the Gazette. He will send each member a list of the basic documents and members then can request copies of specific documents. TMI is adequately funded at this time. Over \$50,000 will be spent on upgrading track this year. TMI is starting a design process to upgrade camping areas to enhance volunteerism at TM. The dues increase started as a TMI request to TMRR.

Administration Report by Tom Watson. Steiger Butte is now a security zone. We now have TV cameras active on Steiger Butte, partly as a result of a request made by the Fire Department after consulting with the Sheriff. An air quality sensor is being installed at Central Station. Anyone going to Steiger Butte should contact Tom Watson first to forestall an alarm. Tom is ordering "33 year" pins but tariff uncertainty is causing price uncertainty. The three office computers are running on the 2007 version of "Office" software, an upgrade is needed.

Forest Report Jeff Pape said that the brush control grant is being rapidly processed by the granting agency and approval could come this Fall. The Oregon Department of Forestry person who inspected our property as part of the grant request process reports that generally our woods are in good shape.

Fire Safety Report by Jeff Mills. The 10,000 gallon rail tank car in Six Acre Campground is being adapted for use as a fire season reservoir for use by the fire department. The work involves adding a "fill" pipe with float valve and larger pipe with a valve and suitable fitting for the fire department to attach a hose to refill their fire truck quickly. The advantage gained is that the nearest refill point at this time is in the town of Chiloquin, having a refill point right on our property could be critically important to controlling a fire here. The tank car modification is an example of making a very small investment to get a large benefit. We have had an unusually easy season of fire weather.

Tom Watson moved to adjourn. David Waterstreet seconded the motion. By unanimous voice vote the meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Executive Session. The board assembled in executive session in the library at 6:50 PM on Sept. 4, 2019 to discuss a sensitive topic. The board adjourned at 8:07 PM intending to resume at a later date.

Executive Session, resumed. Called to order at 5:01 PM on Sept 6, 2019 in the library by President Jeff Mills. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.