

Train Mountain Railroad
Board of Directors Meeting
September 8, 2016

1: Meeting Called to Order at 3:00PM.

In attendance: Tom Watson, Jerry Crane, Jeff Pape, Jeff Mills, Jim Armstrong (by phone), Judith Williamson, Pam Williams, Hank Stiles, Dick Peterson, Dave Waterstreet, Delores Bartholomew, Frank Bartholomew, David Bardwell, Joyce Merwin and two other members.

Not in attendance: Chuck Barnes

2: Elections

Joyce Merwin, who took notes for the minutes, arrived at 3:05PM just as Jerry Crane was saying that he needs to be a non-voting member (of the TMRR Board).

Elections will be done by e-mail ballot. Those who do not use e-mail may request a ballot from the office or make arrangements to place their vote with the office.

There are 3 openings on the board. Jim Armstrong has given written notice that when his term ends he will not run for re-election. Carol LaBerge has verbally stated to Tom Watson, but not given written notice, that she is resigning from the Board. (To avoid conflict of interest) Jerry Crane needs to be a non-voting member.

Jeff Mills volunteered to receive nominations and to present them to the board. Jeff Mills should read the bylaws and let us know how long it will take him to do this.

Suggestions for how to get the word out re: nominations, the ballot and voting:

Pam Williams – Can we do a 1 page extra edition of the *Gazette*?

Another Member – Can we do post cards?

Tom Watson – Bulk e-mail

Jeff Mills – Favors the idea of an extra edition of the *Gazette*.

3: Fees

Membership Fees: After a short discussion among Board and TMRR members, Jeff Mills moved to make a motion to raise the individual and family membership dues by \$10 per year with the other dues (railbiker and premium memberships) unchanged.

Jerry Crane seconded the motion.

Tom Watson asked for any further discussion. There was none.

The motion passed unanimously 5 to 1.

Meet Fees and All Meets Fees: There was a short discussion about meet fees. Jerry Crane commented that all meet fees go to TMRR and he recommended that they remain the same. Tom Watson also recommended not changing them.

Jeff Mills moved to make a motion to leave all of the meet fees at status quo.

Jeff Pape seconded the motion.

Tom Watson asked for any further discussion. There was none.

The motion passed unanimously.

4: Status Report TMI

Jerry Crane reported that TMI finances sit at \$81,000 in the bank. \$20,000 is for property taxes, \$20,000 is set aside for the containers, \$6,000 is for the Brush Blazer, \$10,000 is for other commitments for capital projects. It will cost about \$65,000 to finish the Containerville Project. He further explained the positive impact selling all of the containers would have vs. the negative impact not selling some or all of the remaining 13 containers would have.

Because the money in the bank is committed, he is putting the kibosh (the no) on any other capital projects anyone puts forward for now.

Jerry Crane illustrated this by mentioning that he wants to replace all of the fluorescent bulbs with LED's. Tom Watson reported on what this would cost--\$2,200 for the Backshop and about \$22,000 if the whole of Train Mountain is done. We do not have the money now, so this project is not a go until all of the containers are sold.

Jerry Crane explained about Debra Cox's wages and Carl Vanderspek's understanding that TMRR would reimburse for Debra's wages that were paid through FTM. Jerry Crane requested TMRR reimburse for Debra's wages as per Carl's understanding. Tom Watson stated that he does not know if there was anything in writing (regarding this) and that TMRR can do it for one year but not indefinitely.

Jeff Pape made a motion that this year 2016 only TMRR funds groundskeeper (Debra Cox) wages to Friends of Train Mountain.

Jim Armstrong seconded the motion.

Tom Watson asked for any further discussion. There was none.

The motion passed unanimously.

5: Status Report TMRR

Tom Watson reported on the new fiber optics system that was installed and on the money savings from this. (Referring to Hunter Communications). We are still in switch over mode with Blue Caboose still on the old system. The website and server also still use IP. We are making a lot of technical progress. People, like Hank, have been going out and finding things that are broken (and fixing them).

Tom Watson also reported that substantial donations have been taken in from train tours. Members can give a private tour on their own train.

6: Status Report Forestry

Jeff Pape delivered the Forestry Report. We have 2200 acres of forest and he realized it needs to be cared for. Dr. Daniel Leavell, PhD, dry side forestry, has been providing some expert advice and guidance. There is a strong need to control brush and ladder fuels. Jeff Pape is trying to create strategies that are easy for members. He has proposed guidelines which are on file and discussed some of the plan. He says his plan is a "work in progress" and that he is open to suggestions. He is not looking for a revolution, but an evolution and for volunteers to help. There are advantages to thinning seedlings and to thinning trees out for optimum growth of the trees. To aid in our forest management maps for each different zone on our property may be developed and available by next year.

Tom Watson acknowledged Jeff Pape for giving a nice report and also suggested that Jeff Pape write a monthly article for the Gazette.

7: Status Report Fire Protection

Jeff Mills gave his report. He sees that the fire cars are being used. He would like to see them used more. In October 2016 volunteers will be needed to work on the fire equipment and winterizing it. He would like to 1) look at turning the wine car into a water reserve for fighting fire, 2) clean the brush out of the old burn pit which is approximately 200 feet x 200 feet and to make it into a place where people can go to for safety in case of fire on the Southside and 3) would like to have fire fighting training sessions for using the fire pumps and Indian backpacks.

Tom Watson commented that we also need to put in a fire safe zone up by Hope.

Member suggestions included having (official) fire fighters come to educate members on fire safety and training and making how to use our fire-fighting equipment and/or basic fire fighting part of the train operation safety video/training requirement. Some

concern was expressed over Train Mountain doing the fire fighting training itself because there may be legal issues or regulations involved with that.

8. Gazette

Tom Watson explained the need for someone to help with the *Gazette*, particularly in encouraging others to submit articles and in gathering them up. The person would not need to be present in the office. No one at the meeting appeared interested in taking this on.

Suggestions from those present were to try announcing the need at a banquet or through the *Gazette* and to scout members to see if any are retired English professors who might be interested and who also might be able to edit.

9. Day-to-Day Operations Items

a.i. Docents: There was a fair amount of discussion between the board and members on docents and rail tours. Docent and office volunteers can be sent to Joyce Merwin.

Pam Williams reported that we do not have a mission statement other than “education” yet. Joyce Merwin reported that visitors show up at all office hours and many are sent by word of mouth or just stumble across Train Mountain rather than reading the website. Some suggestions were to have a sign-up board for the docents and to encourage visitors (if they call ahead) to visit during the non-formal work week when more members are here. One member suggested using Wild Apricot for volunteer sign-up.

a.ii. Office volunteers: Send to Joyce.

a.iii. We need a Board Member to take on the job of organizing Board Meetings. This can be done off-site, the Board Member does not have to be at Train Mountain.

Jeff Pape moved to adjourn the meeting.

A **Last Minute Item** was presented by David Waterstreet. He suggested an annual mailing to all members which includes Board Minutes and other things that are happening. It would be a *Gazette* mailing and would be mailed not e-mailed. He thinks the cost could be offset by the raise in membership dues. David Waterstreet also suggested someone be designated as vice-president and gave his opinion that the board needs to get more organized and formalized.

Dick Peterson mentioned that the membership packets used to contain a CD with the Encyclopedia and lots of other stuff on it. Jeff Pape suggested that leadership ambitions

and goals be publicized. Hank Stiles suggested that members fill in a blank on the membership application form for skills that they have that could help the organization. Frank Bartholomew suggested offering Club Memberships (like for the Kitsap group, for example) and that each group organize their own activities for their group at Train Mountain. Jerry Crane responded that that hasn't worked because they are busy with their own groups (railroad clubs). Tom Watson commented that Corporate Memberships were frowned upon by John Black, but that we should re-look at that.

Jeff Pape moved to adjourn the meeting.

Jeff Mills seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned 4:55PM