

**Meeting Minutes
NRHS Board of Directors
GoToMeeting
Sunday, November 8, 2020**

President Weber called the meeting to order at 1:05PM EDT.

Roll Call

The Board attendance for the meeting was as follows:

Name	Office	Present	Absent
Al Weber	President	A	
Tony White	Vice President	A	
E. Steven Barry	Global Director	A	
Ned Harris	Global Director	P	
Eric Fogg	Global Director		X
Regan Rickson	Global Director		X
Roberta Ballard	Global Director		X
R. Douglas Scott	District 1 Director	A	
Harold Shaak	District 2 Director	A	
Charles Webb	District 2 Director	A	
Jon Baake	District 3 Director	A	
Marlin Taylor	District 3 Director	A	
David Foster	District 4 Director		X
Frank Scheer	District 4 Director	A	
Scott Andes	District 5 Director	A	
John Goodman	District 6 Director	A	
John Simanton	District 6 Director	A	
Kenneth Eddy	District 7 Director		X
Skip Waters	District 7 Director	A	
Jeffrey S. Smith	District A Director	A	
Patrick Molloy	District A Director		X
Jack Hillborn	District B Director	A	
Ricky Durant	District B Director	A	

A= In Attendance P = Attended via Phone X = Absent

There was a quorum present to conduct business.

Also in attendance were Membership Chair Hugh Harris, Advisory Council Chair Ellen Scott, General Counsel John Fiorilla. NRHS /Comptroller Bob Heavenrich, Dawn Holmberg, Vice President Emeritus Joe Maloney, NRHS Fund Chair Bob Ernst, Carl Jensen for Dave Foster, Treasurer Bob Bitzer, RailCamp Chair Becky Gerstung, NRHS Fund Treasurer Cynthia Atwood.

President Weber advised that we need to replace the Vice President. Due to personal reasons Frank Cornelius had to step down. He contacted several people about the position and Tony White accepted Doug Scott moved that Tony White be the Vice President, John Goodman seconded. Motion passed.

President Weber then advised that we need a secretary. He has contacted several people, and no one has stepped forward. That person does not need to be a board member. The job has gotten easier since the meetings are now on video. He will start nominating after the meeting.

Next was the election of Treasurer. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Bob Bitzer as Treasure and Carol Ann Cornelius as Assistant Treasurer. Motion carried.

Presidential Appointments-An appointment list will be sent to all members shortly by President Weber.

Unfinished Business – None

New Business

- a. Bluewater Chapter Withdrawal – They have made donations to various rail projects around the country, including NRHS RailCamp. They donated \$30,001.02 to RailCamp Scholarships. John Simanton moved to accept the withdrawal of Bluewater Chapter; Marlin Taylor seconded. Motion passed.
- b. 2021 Budget – Bob Bitzer. The budget was sent to the Board of Directors. It is a balanced budget. He reviewed the budget with all departments that have accounts in the budget. It is balanced at zero.
Bob Heavenrich added that renewals are still coming in and we are ahead of last year. Jon Baake made a motion to accept the budget, seconded by Ed Harris. Motion passed.
Hugh Harris wanted to thank Jeff Smith for helping with PayPal.
- c. Directors Emeritus. Skip Waters asked what exactly this is. Tony White explained that we have several members with a combined service of over 60 years. They are Joe Maloney, Bob Bitzer, Bob Ernst, Wesley Ross, and Walter Zullig. Their knowledge is invaluable. They would be great mentors to the board. They would be invited to attend all board meetings but would not have a vote in any decisions. Al went on to explain that it is an honorary position. The Emeritus would be used for their knowledge and advise in the future. They would sit in and discuss at meetings. A motion was made to accept the Directors Emeritus. Passed.
- d. Skip Waters asked that we re-establish the districts in some form for voting. This was postponed until the next meeting under Unfinished business.

Reports

Film – Marlin Taylor

All film has been digitized and many slides. They have been using Mitch Dakelman's equipment and could use a new digital scanner and computer. He was looking for \$4000 to come out of the film and digitation budget to cover this. A motion was made to approve spending the money and seconded. Motion passed. Jeff Smith added that he has some equipment he can donate.

Treasurer's Report – Bob Bitzer

Everyone should have received the reports and audit letter. He has replied to RKL's questions. WE have a clean audit for 2019. He has received the 990's and Bob Heavenrich is in the process of reviewing them. Bob Bitzer will also review them.

Bob Heavenrich – Thanked Jeff Smith for his work on getting out the refunds for the convention and RailCamp. Two problems right now are being worked on, one being the money the Fund owes the NRHS which is being dealt with.

We have received donations in the amounts of \$2000 for 75-year pins, \$5000 grants match (between \$4500 - \$4600 already in), and the \$30,00 from the Bluewater Chapter for RailCamp.

Bob Heavenrich stated that he would also like to change the auditing company. Bob Bitzer advised that RKL stated they had issues die to Covid, tax deadlines, etc. He feels it's OK to get bids from other firms but not to decide at this time. He would like to hear from other Board members if they know of any audit firms that they can recommend.

Advisory Council – Ellen Scott

Ellen stated that she had notified the members that due to the passing of Del Kittendorf and Scott Andes now being a director, that she was the Council Chairperson. The council should be holding an election in 2020 and she asked for volunteers. So far, she hasn't heard from anyone. President Weber advised that the council could use GoToMeeting in the future.

General Counsel – John Fiorilla

John is working on the upcoming convention. He received a call from an attorney in Nevada regarding a donation we had received from a client. The client received a tax refund and the NRHS share is \$8,600. He is also working with John Goodman in securing refunds on the past convention. He is temporarily the secretary for the Fund.

RailCamp – Becky Gerstung

The committee is planning for next year. John and Tony are working with the vendors. The only question right now due to the uncertainty of Covid is whether to post the

application on January 1 with an April 1 deadline. We can't social distance at RailCamp. Between the vans and the activities, you can't social distance. She stated that she doesn't want to get applicants hopes up like this year, and then cancel. The Bluewater Chapter was a strong supporter of RailCamp. They sent campers and if they had no campers, they sent money. Becky was thinking that the decision could be made at the March meeting with keeping the 4/1 deadline. Jeff Smith moved we cancel RailCamp for next year, seconded by Jon Baake. Doug Scott asked that we hear Tony White's thoughts since he is one of the directors. Tony stated that most of the work for RailCamp doesn't start until January and with Amtrak until February or March. All the partners know that there is a chance RailCamp could be cancelled. After more discussion it was decided to let the committee make the decision based on the circumstance. They should post the application with a disclaimer regarding cancellation.

Publications – Jeff Smith

Volume 83, issues 1 and 2-the Alaska issue and the Thanksgiving issue. He's currently working on one more issue after Christmas or the beginning of January. 2021 will start Volume 84, issue 1. They are no longer printing extra copies, but copies can be found on the web if needed.

NRHS Fund – Bob Ernst

Bob advised the officers are President - Bob Ernst, Vice President – Victor Varney, Treasurer – Cynthia Atwood, and Secretary – John Fiorilla. They are working on investing and fund raising. Looking into fund raising on Facebook. Facebook members would have the ability to hold fund raising on behalf of the NRHS. They are very close to matching the \$5000. They are looking into other means of fund raising. John Fiorilla will look into the Sam Freeman Grant.

Jon Baake questioned why the survey had not gone out. Al Weber said he would look into it.

Heritage Grants – Charlie Webb

Charlie advised that they are revising the application to make it simpler. They are looking to have it done by December 1. He is looking for another member for the committee. They have had a request to extend a grant until next year due to Covid and because of that have not cashed the check. He will contact them. Charlie advised that the matching of the \$5000 was going well and so far, was at about \$4500. Organizations are not seeing a lot of donations this year. Last year \$14,000 was put into grants from unrestricted funds.

Conventions – John Goodman

The 2021 convention will be in late summer, 8/23-28 in Milwaukee Wisconsin. The Department of Health feels that by that time some restrictions will be lifted. The hotel has not been decided yet, but the committee is looking at one near the airport. The rate is \$119 per night. There is a shuttle from the airport and Amtrak, but not the station where the Empire Builder comes in. The convention would start with Registration on Monday, Green Bay on Tuesday, Wednesday the Trolley Museum in East Troy and the banquet, Thursday is still under consideration but could be the transportation museum, Friday would be the meetings, Saturday the Illinois Railroad Museum. The convention would end when the buses return to the hotel.

2022-Del was the contact with Brightline and the historical society. Walter Zullig has taken over and will be checking into the Florida location.

2023 – East Broad Top. Would probably stay in Harrisburg. Things to do include Blue Mountain and Reading Railroad, Strasburg Railroad, The Pennsylvania Railroad Museum, Horseshoe Curve, Altoona.

The other choice would be to go back to Knotts Berry Farm in Fullerton.

Need to get 2021 going before getting into other locations. Need to deal with how to handle social distancing on buses.

Conferences – Bob Bitzer

The fall 2021 conference will be in Ronkonkoma NY from 11/7-11. The Holiday Inn Long Island is near the Islip Airport. Room rate is \$145 per night. They are currently working on a trip and banquet. The schedule is Thursday registration, Friday trip, and Saturday meetings and banquet.

Spring 2022 – Raleigh NC

Fall 2022 – Johnson City TN This is a replacement for the cancelled one.

Need candidates for 2023

Wes Ross advised that we are in the middle of the Federal Campaign. So far \$119 has been donated. This is for all federal employees, military, retirees and allows donation to be taken out of their checks.

Membership – Hugh Harris

Renewals are moving right along All PayPal through 11/2 has been entered. He is currently working on a mailing company to do the membership cards. Looking at a plastic credit card type. He is working on verbiage for the letter. He will begin mailing out the cards beginning in December and then as they are received. We are losing

members but gaining more. He needs to speak to Dawn about getting survey questions on the membership application. He will work on that once through the rush of renewals.

Jon Baake has membership brochures and will send them to anyone who needs them.

Announcements

John Goodman asked what system are we using for the convention? NEON or what we used last year. We will be using the same as last year. Hugh mentioned that NEON was never fully activated to do that for us. Dawn stated we will use the same as RCPA.

There being no further business, Doug Scot made a motion to adjourn. Passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Scott

Ellen Scott
Secretary