



As approved by the Board via email July 30, 2015

**Meeting Minutes  
NRHS Board of Directors  
Holiday Inn Hotel  
Rutland, VT  
Wednesday, June 17, 2015**

Pursuant to notice, the Board of Directors of the National Railway Historical Society, Inc. met at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Rutland, VT on June 17, 2015.

**1) Call to Order - Open Session**

President Al Weber called the meeting to order at 2:48p.m. EDT on Wednesday, June 17, 2015.

**2) Welcome and Roll Call**

President Al Weber welcomed the Directors to this meeting. Secretary Bob Ernst explained the process for taking attendance at the meeting. The Board attendance for this meeting was as follows:

Name	Office	Present	Absent
Al Weber	President	1	
Joseph C. Maloney, Jr.	Vice President	1	
David Flinn	Global Director (2014 - 2018)		E
E. Steven Barry	Global Director (2014 - 2018)	1	
Walter Zullig	Global Director (2012 - 2016)	1	
Robert J. Ernst	Global Director (2012 - 2016)	1	
William Bain	Global Director (2012 - 2016)		E
Mia Mather	District 1 Director (2014 - 2018)	1	
Tony White	District 1 Director (2012 - 2016)	1	
Harold Shaak	District 2 Director (2014 - 2018)	1	
Mark S. Eyer	District 2 Director (2012 - 2016)	1	
Frank Fowler	District 3 Director (2014 - 2018)	1	
Ralph Robert Bitzer	District 3 Director (2012 - 2016)	1	
Sanford Williamson	District 4 Director (2014 - 2018)		E
Larry Dyer	District 4 Director (2012 - 2016)		E
Jim Pahriss	District 5 Director (2014 - 2018)	1	
Wesley F. Ross	District 5 Director (2012 - 2016)	1	
John Goodman	District 6 Director (2014 - 2018)	1	
Duane Durr	District 6 Director (2012 - 2016)		E
Steven Siegerist	District 7 Director (2014 - 2018)	1	

Skip Waters	District 7 Director (2012 - 2016)	1	
Jeffrey S. Smith	District A Director (2014 - 2018)		E
Wes Weis	District A Director (2012 - 2016)	1	
Jack Hilborn	District B Director (2014 - 2018)	1	
Philip A. McMeins	District B Director (2012 - 2016)		U

No Board of Directors member attended via teleconference line. E=Excused Absence  
U=Unexcused Absence

There was a quorum present in order to conduct business.

General Counsel John Fiorilla and NRHS Fund President Gregory Molloy were in attendance.

### Approval of April 2015 Minutes

The minutes of the Spring 2015 Board of Directors' Meeting were approved via email and posted to the admin site on May 25, 2015.

### 3) President's Report

President Al Weber briefly discussed the financial situation of the NRHS. Spending is in check and the vendors are getting paid on time. He thanked Treasurer Bob Bitzer and Comptroller Bob Heavenrich for the extraordinary amount of time they have invested to bring the Society's bookkeeping back in order.

### 4) Officers, Directors and Service Directors Reports

#### Vice President Joe Maloney

Joe reported that the Membership Awards and Chapter Anniversary certificates have all been distributed and are complete for the year.

The film digitalization project is continuing and is nearly 80% complete.

#### Treasurer Bob Bitzer

Bob Bitzer has been working closely with Your Part Time Comptroller (YPTC) on the financials for the NRHS and NRHS Fund. Preparation work is ongoing for the 2014 audit and the audit will happen soon.

NRHS Comptroller Bob Heavenrich reported that he has been working with YPTC along with Bob Bitzer. An unaudited copy of the 2014 financials was distributed to the Board. He noted that 2015 dues revenue is nearly 75% of 2014 dues revenue.

**Secretary Bob Ernst**

No report

**General Counsel John Fiorilla**

John reported that he has been spending much less time on NRHS legal matters now that the lawsuit litigation is complete. His law office is now the mailing address of the NRHS and all mail is being distributed to the appropriate parties from his office.

He has completed the receipt of a bequest from an estate that will be deposited soon.

**Membership Records – Skip Waters**

Skip gave an update on the transition of the membership database to Amilia. All of the information is now in Amilia. Skip and Hugh Harris are working through the database entries and making corrections as necessary. The Amilia system went online on June 16, 2015.

Skip gave a demonstration to the Board on the workings of the database, how it looks and how data is manipulated.

The renewals for 2016 will be online. Members will be able to renew for the year and update their information. In the future chapters will have access to the chapter data and be able to handle updates. He is also working on giving chapter Electronic Billing Contacts the capability to renew memberships.

There are issues with family memberships that need to be covered. The system needs to attach family memberships to a primary member.

**NRHS Fund – Greg Molloy**

Greg reported that the Fund Board of Trustees last met in York, PA. There has been no action of the Fund Board of Trustees since. The Fund Board will meet after review of the financials via conference call in July or August.

The Fund received a request from the NRHS for the Heritage Grants. Once the funds in the accounts were verified by the Treasurer the request was fulfilled.

**Advisory Council – Fred Kurtz**

The NRHS Advisory Council met earlier in the day. The Council brings three items to the Board. One is the recommendation to spell out National Railway Historical Society under the current NRHS logo. The second is to have the Board define an affiliate membership. Lastly the Council is recommending the 2015 Convention volunteers be recognized in the next issue of the *NRHS News*.

## **RailCamp Report – Carl Jensen**

Carl reported that the RailCamp program for 2015 is set. The East program has 24 students and the West program is at 12 students. All events are in place and all railroad sponsors are enthusiastically looking forward to participating.

## **Heritage Grants**

Heritage Grants Committee member Mia Mather reported the committee received 43 applications for grants. The total dollars requested were about \$140,000. (Appendix B)

## **Members' Discount List – Wes Ross**

The discount list has been published in the June issue of the *NRHS News*. The list is also available on the website. Wes thanked all who donated to cover the expenses incurred to create the discount list.

## **Office Volunteer – Burton Eisenberg**

The NRHS office volunteers are set up at the Delaware Valley Association of Rail Passengers (DVARP) office located in Philadelphia. Additional volunteers are needed, especially younger people.

## **NRHS Website – Dawn Holmberg**

Dawn was introduced as the new webmaster of the NRHS websites. She is transitioning the work from Jeff Smith.

## **5) Convention Reports**

### **2015 Rutland, VT**

Convention Chairman Walter Zullig gave a report of the convention events and sales. Currently there are approximately 500 registrants. The largest excursion is the Burlington trip with over 320 aboard. Public sales have been very good at the convention. This should put the convention into the black financially.

### **2016 Denver, CO**

Convention Chairman John Goodman discussed the plans for Denver 2016. The dates will be July 19 – 24, 2016. The host hotel will be the Holiday Inn – Stapleton. A \$110.00 per night rate has been negotiated. Possible events include the Georgetown Loop, Royal Gorge, Leadville and the Colorado Railroad Museum among other possibilities.

**2017 – Tennessee**

**Motion:** John Goodman motioned and Skip Waters seconded to have the Board give tentative approval for a 2017 convention to be held in Tennessee. Dates and events to be determined. Passed by voice vote.

John is exploring other venues for future conventions including Salt Lake City which would be the 2019 site for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Golden Spike at Promontory Summit, UT.

**6) Conferences – Bob Bitzer**

**Fall 2015** – Utica, NY. October 23 – 25, 2015.

The Hotel Utica is accepting reservations for the Conference. Rate is \$99.00 plus tax and includes a deluxe buffet breakfast. Registration material will be available later this summer.

**Winter 2016**

Skip Waters reported that the North Texas Chapter will host the Winter 2016 Conference on January 9 - 10, 2016. No hotel contract signed at this time.

(It should be noted that the Board decided to cancel the Winter 2016 meeting in early July. The Executive Committee held a vote to formally cancel which passed.)

**Spring 2016**

Frank Fowler reported that the Spring 2016 Conference dates have been set for April 22 – 24, 2016. The hotel will be the Ramada Inn (formerly the Holiday Inn) which is track side to the CSX mainline in Cumberland, MD. A trip will be arranged on the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad.

**Fall 2016** – No offers in place.

**7) Unfinished Business****Actions of the Executive Committee**

No action was taken by the Committee since the Spring Conference.

**Budget**

No report. No Action.

**International Trip**

It was decided that it is not in the interest of the NRHS to commit to a trip at this time.

## **8) New Business**

### **UK Chapter**

There was a discussion to reinstate the UK Chapter if past dues were paid along with current dues.

**Motion:** Jim Pahriss motioned and Wes Ross seconded that the UK Chapter could be reinstated if all 2014 dues were paid and all 2015 dues are paid. A July 15, 2015 deadline was set. Motion passed by show of hands. Nine yes votes and 8 no votes.

### **Records Storage Facility**

There is a need to have a storage facility to keep the NRHS records. The facility being used to house the NRHS Library is expensive for this type of storage. A self-storage unit that is secure and dry but not climate-controlled is all that is necessary.

**Motion:** Bob Bitzer motioned and Jack Hilborn seconded to approve to rent a non-climate controlled records storage facility with a cost at \$200.00 per month in the Laurel, MD area. Passed by voice vote.

Bob Bitzer will contract for the unit and be the manager of the contents.

## **9) Announcements**

General announcements were made.

## **10) Adjournment**

**Motion:** Steve Barry motioned to adjourn.

The Board meeting adjourned at 4:05PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Robert Ernst  
Secretary

## Appendix A Members and Guests in attendance

### National Representatives

Chapter	#	Last Name	First Name	Present
Central Coast Chapter	097	Graham	Edward	<b>PHONE</b>
Cincinnati Chapter	110	Andes	Scott	<b>PHONE</b>
Tacoma Chapter (ALT)	071	Berntsen	Edward	<b>PHONE</b>
Arkansas-Boston Mountains Chapter	188	Eddy	Kenneth	<b>X</b>
Atlanta Chapter	046	Kittendorf	Delmar	<b>X</b>
Baltimore Chapter	003	Shulby	Richard	<b>X</b>
Blackhawk Chapter	107	Murray	Robert	<b>X</b>
Blue Ridge Chapter	043	Leslie	Robert	<b>X</b>
Bluewater Michigan Chapter	165	Patterson	Elizabeth	<b>X</b>
Cape Cod Chapter	183	Scott	R.Douglas	<b>X</b>
Connecticut Valley Chapter	012	Ballard	Roberta	<b>X</b>
East Tennessee Chapter	042	Hopkins	M.Paul	<b>X</b>
Gulf Curve Chapter	189	Lazur	Harla	<b>X</b>
Heart Of Dixie Chapter	060	Owen	Martin	<b>X</b>
Hoosierland Chapter	186	Harris	Hugh	<b>X</b>
Inland Empire Chapter	089	Simanton	John	<b>X</b>
Kentucky Central Chapter	194	Ross	Shirley	<b>X</b>
Lancaster Chapter	001	Kurtz	Fred	<b>X</b>

Leatherstocking Chapter	167	Lazur	Mark	<b>X</b>
Lehigh Valley Chapter	016	Young	Donald	<b>X</b>
Miami Chapter	044	Boldrick	S.	<b>X</b>
Midwest Chapter	021	Kovacs	William	<b>X</b>
New York Chapter	022	Sowa	Cora	<b>X</b>
Niagara Frontier Chapter	017	Gerstung	Rebecca	<b>X</b>
North Florida Chapter	160	Fiorilla	Marjorie	<b>X</b>
Old Smoky Chapter	049	Freeman	Robert	<b>X</b>
Pacific Northwest Chapter	032	Baker	Al	<b>X</b>
Philadelphia Chapter	004	Senin	Peter	<b>X</b>
Piedmont Carolinas Chapter	129	Shulby	Richard	<b>X</b>
Potomac Chapter	116	Davidson	Richard	<b>X</b>
Roanoke Chapter	036	Jensen	Carl	<b>X</b>
Saint Louis Chapter	064	Gawedzinski	Ron	<b>X</b>
Tidewater Chapter	033	Harris	Ned	<b>X</b>
Ulster & Delaware Chapter	171	Bishop	Donald	<b>X</b>
Utica & Mohawk Valley Chapter	150	Lazur	Mark	<b>X</b>
Washington DC Chapter	019	Baake	Jon	<b>X</b>
Western Connecticut Chapter	030	Ballard	Roberta	<b>X</b>
Wilmington Chapter	088	Posatko	Thomas	<b>X</b>



**Members and Guests**

Robert Heavenrich

G. Patrick Molloy

G.F. Ackerman

Stephen Wasby

Dawn Holmberg

Dan Meyer

Dale Wilken

Gregory Molloy

Sheila Dorr

## Appendix B

### NRHS 2015 Railway Heritage Preservation Grant Awards

Old Dominion Chapter NRHS, Richmond VA - \$1000.

To install adequate lighting to properly display the various artifacts, drawings and equipment owned by the Old Dominion Chapter-owned Richmond Railroad Museum.

Mid Continent Railroad Museum, North Freedom WI - \$1000.

For the exterior renovation of the East Jordan and Southern combination car 2, built in 1864.

Rural Retreat Depot Foundation, Rural Retreat VA – \$1500.

To create museum/event space by rehab/restoring entry doors and windows on the historic Norfolk & Western Rural Retreat Depot, retaining the 1949 configuration and style.

New England Electric Railway Historical Society, Kennebunkport ME - \$2000.

To restore the exterior of the 1912 Portland Lewiston Interurban No.14, Narcissus.

National Railroad Museum, Green Bay WI – \$1500.

To restore CB&Q #30 dynamometer car to operational status.

Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce, Rutland VT - \$1500.

To support the construction of a necessary and required shelter over historic 1913 Rutland #551 passenger rail car.

Historical Society of Windham County, Newfane VT – \$1500.

For the restoration of the 1880 Newfane railroad station, for the purpose of creating a Museum of the West River Railroad.

Alexander Chapter NRHS, Hickory NC - \$1000.

To purchase the final, necessary materials (wood, steel, engine parts, bearings) to restore a narrow gauge maintenance-of-way gang car that was built and used by the East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad.

Maine Narrow Gauge Museum, Portland ME – \$2000.

To restore an original Caboose Waycar #557 – a 24-foot long caboose built in 1913 by the Maine Central Railroad's Waterville Shops for the 2-foot gauge Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad.

*Total NRHS 2015 Grant awards - \$13,000.00*

*E. M. Berntsen, Grants Director - June 4, 2015.*