

MRHTS Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2025

The meeting was conducted at the West Perry Branch of the Indianapolis Public Library, 6650 South Harding Street, Indianapolis, IN 46217.

Meeting called to order by: Jim Craig at 1:00 p.m.

Members Present: Jim Craig, Don Toon, Jamie Stewart, Rick Dreistadt, Joe Crnkovich, Steve Long, George Lortz, John Butler, Mike Benham, Dave Morrison and Frank Van Bree.

Members Absent: Ron Simunic.

Guests Present: Steve Dolzall, Amy Butler, John Fuller and Shirley Benham.

Approval of Nov. 9, 2024 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Joe Crnkovich to approve the 11/09/24 Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Steve Long. The motion passed 11-0-0.

George reported that all Board Meeting minutes and attachments in the future would be posted on the MRHTS website after they have been approved.

President's Report: Discussion led by Jim Craig. Jim reported that:

- The Society's financial status was currently in stable condition.
- The Annual Meeting this year will feature a celebration of the MRHTS 50th Anniversary.
- The Society booth at the Lebanon Train Show raised \$600.00.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion led by Don Toon.

- Don presented the MRHTS Account Summary for 12/31/2025 (**Attachment #1**) and the MRHTS Profit and Loss Statement for 1/01/25 to 12/31/25 (**Attachment #2**).
- Don reported that the financial report format will be changed in the future.
- Jim Craig reported that revenue sharing from The Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum (HVRM) for the use of The Lynne totaled \$3805.01.
- A motion was made by John Butler to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Frank Van Bree. The motion passed 11-0-0.

Old Business.

- **2025 Convention: Discussion led by Jim Craig.** Jim reported that:
 - The Annual Convention will be held in Salem from Sep. 26th to the 28th (**Attachment #3**).
 - A tour is planned to the Kentucky Railroad Museum in New Haven, KY. The bus ride will take 5 hours round trip.
 - A motion was made by Don Toon to approve the Convention Report. Seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 11-0-0.
- **Society Membership: Discussion led by Jamie Stewart.** Jamie reported that:
 - The MRHTS currently has 438 members in all classes (**Attachment #4**).

- There currently are 44 members who have not renewed for this year. A call list will be created to reach out to those who have not renewed.
- A discussion was conducted regarding advertising the Society in railroad magazines.
- A motion was made by George Lortz approve the Society Membership Report. Seconded by Steve Long. The motion passed 11-0-0.
- **Stores and Product Sales:** Discussion led by Jim Craig. Jim reported that:
 - He is working on trying to find a vendor that can produce a model of a wide-vision cupola caboose model. Wayne Zeman contacted about one dozen vendors, but only two have responded to date. Paradise Car and Locomotive has quoted us a cost of \$424 to produce a 3D printer sample model for our approval. Lead time would be late summer for production (**Attachment #5**).
 - We are looking into producing and selling a 3D printer model of the Clear Creek depot. A model of this depot could also be used for modeling up to 12 other Monon depots.
 - Dave Morrison reported that there were \$1004.00 in eBay sales netting \$887.38 (**Attachment #6**). He also suggested that more *The Hoosier Lines* magazines be added to eBay sales in the future.
 - A motion was made by Don Toon to approve the Stores Report. Seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 11-0-0.
- **The Hoosier Line/Annual Calendar/News and Timetables:** Discussion led by Steve Dolzall. Steve reported that:
 - The May issue of *The Hoosier Line* has been sent to the printer (**Attachment #7**).
 - The August issue is in process. The feature article will be about the Monon's use of former kitchen cars written by Mont Switzer. An article about scales is also planned.
 - The November issue will feature an article by John Butler.
 - The February issue will include an article about the Annual Convention.
 - In the future, we need more articles about the north end of the Monon.
 - No subject has been selected yet for the Annual Calendar. One possibility is featuring David Ingles photos.
 - A motion was made by John Butler to approve *The Hoosier Line* Report. Seconded by Jamie Stewart. The motion passed 11-0-0.
- **Photo Archives:** Discussion led by Don Toon. Don reported that:
 - The Charles Herley slides are all scanned at high resolution for future use.
 - The hardware setup in Salem is completed.
 - Don supplied an attachment covering the Photo Archives Report (**Attachment #8**).
 - George Lortz reported that the frequency of requests for copies of Society-owned images is growing. There is a need to establish some guidelines about the future distribution of these images.
 - A motion was made by Jamie Stewart to approve the Photo Archives Report. Seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 11-0-0.
- **Paper Archives:** Discussion led by Rick Dreistadt. Rick reported that he is continuing to organize and separate the Paper Archives. He is still concentrating on maps and drawings.
 - A motion was made by Jamie Stewart to approve the Paper Archives Report. Seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 11-0-0.
- **Society Hardware:** Discussion led by Steve Long. Steve brought a semaphore pinnacle for the Society's use. The pinnacle is cracked. The Society would like to find enough parts to construct a complete semaphore.

- A motion was made by Frank Van Bree to approve the Society Hardware Report. Seconded by George Lortz. The motion passed 11-0-0.
- **Status of HVRM 81532 Restoration Project:** Discussion led by Jim Craig. Jim reported that HVRM has placed the car in cold storage until spring when work on the car will continue.
 - A motion was made by George Lortz to approve the report. Seconded by Jamie Stewart. The motion passed 11-0-0.
- **Status of March 15th Mini-Convention:** Discussion led by Jim Craig. Jim reported that:
 - The Fourth Annual Mini-Convention and Yard Sale is scheduled in Salem for March 15th and help is needed from Board members on that day (**Attachment #9**).
 - Rick Dreistadt, Seth Lakin, Mont Switzer, Don Toon and Dave Morrison will give presentations.
 - A motion was made by Don Toon to approve the Mini-Convention Report. Seconded by Jamie Stewart. The motion passed 11-0-0.
- **Status of MRHTS “The Hoosier Line” Trademark:** Discussion led by George Lortz. George reported that:
 - He checked with the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Society’s trademark rights to “The Hoosier Line” expired in 1994. There would be extensive effort and some cost to attempt to renew those trademark rights.
 - After discussion, the decision was made not to renew the trademark rights, but to remove the reference to the trademark from all of the Society’s future documents.
 - A motion was made by Jamie Stewart to approve the Trademark Report. Seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 11-0-0.
- **Status of Monon Milepost Project:** Discussion led by George Lortz. George reported that he is completing a detailed listing of the Monon’s mileposts. A discussion was held about how to distribute this listing when it’s completed.
 - A motion was made by Joe Crnkovich to approve the Monon Milepost Project Report. Seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 11-0-0.

New Business.

- **New Lease Contract:** Discussion led by Jim Craig. Jim reported that:
 - He has signed a new lease contract for the MRHTS occupancy of The Depot.
 - The contract is in affect through 12/31/29 and includes a \$15.00 per year increase.
 - A motion was made by Frank Van Bree to approve the New Lease Contract Report. Seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 11-0-0.
- **Ideas for 50-Year MRHTS Celebration:** Discussion led by George Lortz. George led a discussion about what could be provided to attendees at the 50th Anniversary event. Some of the suggestions were to create:
 - 1) PowerPoint presentation
 - 2) Historical pamphlet
 - 3) Hoosier Line display
 - 4) Lists of past members
 - 5) 50th Anniversary memorial souvenir
 - A motion was made by John Butler to approve the 50-Year Celebration Report. Seconded by Don Toon. The motion passed 11-0-0.

- **2025 Board Election Update: Discussion led by Jim Craig.** Jim reported that:
 - A list of the current Board names and positions that were up for election should be created and the election chairman is Dave Morrison.
 - A Nomination Form must be created and mailed with the May *THL* and a Ballot must be created and mailed with the August *THL*.
 - He will not be running for the position of President.
 - A motion was made by George Lortz to approve the 2025 Election Report. Seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 11-0-0.
- **Creating a Basic Monon Railroad Presentation: Discussion led by Jim Craig and George Lortz.** George and Jim reported that:
 - It would be a good asset for the Society to have basic digital Monon Railroad presentation about the history of the railroad.
 - People giving future talks about the Monon could integrate this presentation into their own materials.
 - Many current books and articles are available as reference for creating this presentation.
 - Don Toon reported that he already has the beginnings of a PowerPoint presentation about the Monon.
 - John Butler indicated that he would be willing to work on this effort.
 - A motion was made by George Lortz to approve the 2025 Election Report. Seconded by Frank Van Bree. The motion passed 11-0-0.
- **May Board Meeting Date: Discussion led by Jim Craig.** Jim reported that he was working on a date and location for the May 2025 Board Meeting and would announce that information via email asap.
 - A motion was made by Jamie Stewart to approve the report. Seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 11-0-0.
- **Train Show Banner: Discussion led by Don Toon.** Don presented a banner that he had made that could be used primarily for trade show setups but would be applicable for other events also.
 - A motion was made by George Lortz to approve the report. Seconded by Jim Craig. The motion passed 11-0-0.

Meeting Adjourned:

A motion was made by George Lortz to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Frank Van Bree. The motion passed 11-0-0. The meeting was adjourned by Jim Craig at 3:45 p.m.