

MRHTS Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2025

The meeting was conducted at the Carmel Clay History Center at 211 1st St SW, Carmel, IN following an open house for the restored Carmel Monon depot at 11:00 a.m.

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

Members Present: Jim Craig, Don Toon, Jamie Stewart, Rick Dreistadt, Joe Crnkovich, George Lortz, John Butler, Dave Morrison.

Members Absent: Ron Simunic, Steve Long, Mike Benham and Frank Van Bree.

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

Approval of Feb. 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes: A motion was made by Jamie Stewart to approve the 2/28/25 Board Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Don Toon. The motion passed 8-0-0. The approved minutes will be posted on the MRHTS website.

Comments from Carmel Clay History Center Executive Director: Debbie Gangstad welcomed the Society to the Museum and thanked the Board members for their current and future support.

President's Report: Discussion led by Jim Craig. Jim reported that there are many positives:

- Society membership has increased again.
- Financially the Society is in fair shape because of recent decisions made.
- An order was placed for 200, Monon HO-scale boxcars. This is the first such order placed by the Society in over 15 years.
- Work continues at the Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum on the restoration of caboose #81532. A welder has been contacted to work on roof repair. The car lettering stencils have been sent to be printed. Car paint has been ordered from Sherwin Williams and the HVRM staff is developing a work schedule.
- *The Hoosier Line*, Volume 44:2, May 2025 was delivered ahead of schedule.
- The Society received donations of Monon negatives from Anthracite Railroads Historical Society and the National New York Central Railroad Museum in Elkhart, IN.

The major current concerns are:

- More Society presence is needed at railroad shows to promote the Society.
- Upcoming Society elections indicate a need for a Society Treasurer for 2026.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion led by Don Toon.

- Don presented the MRHTS Income and Expense Report for 1/01/25 – 4/23/25 (**Attachment #1, #2**).
- The Society's Chase Bank balance as of 4/23/25 is \$55,907 - \$8,638.14 is dedicated to the restoration of caboose #81532.
- The Treasurer's report in the future will be presented in a new format.
- A motion was made by John Butler to approve the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Dave Morrison. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Old Business.

- **2025 Convention:** Discussion led by Jim Craig. Jim reported that:

- The Annual Convention will be held in Salem and Bedford from Sep. 26th to the 28th (**Attachment #3**).
 - Friday morning there are several events planned in Salem. The rest of the Convention will be spent around the Bedford area.
 - Registration forms and a Convention agenda will be mailed to Society members asap.
 - Convention speakers will be Bob Schultz, Frank Van Bree, Rick Dreistadt and George Lortz.
 - A financial break-even number of attendees is 50.
 - A motion was made by George Lortz to approve the Convention Report. Seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 8-0-0.
- **2026 Board Election Update: Discussion led by Jim Craig.** Jim reported that:
 - The 2026 Society Election Nomination form was delivered as an insert in *The Hoosier Line* mailing (**Attachment #4**).
 - Nominations must be received by Saturday, July 5, 2025.
 - A motion was made by Jamie Stewart to approve the Board Election Update. Seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 8-0-0.
- **Society Membership: Discussion led by Jamie Stewart.** Jamie reported that:
 - The MRHTS currently has 426 members in all classes (**Attachment #5**).
 - The Society has received 11 new members since the last report.
 - There are 19 members who have not renewed for 2025, but that number has been as high as 30 in past years.
 - A motion was made by Rick Dreistadt to approve the Society Membership Report. Seconded by Don Toon. The motion passed 8-0-0.
- **Stores and Product Sales: Discussion led by Jim Craig.** Jim reported that:
 - He has completed a Stores Department Model Inventory Report effective 4/24/25 (**Attachment #6**).
 - The Society's Mini-convention on March 15th only had 51 attendees, but the weather was bad that day. The Society made approximately \$700.00 in sales.
 - The Society ordered 200 Accurail HO-scale box cars. There are 4 different reporting marks – CIL 279, MON 251, MON 466 and MON 471 (**Attachment #7**).
 - There has been a minimal number of on-line sales recently.
 - Don Toon reported that he is working on a partnership with Daylight Sales for the sale of Monon logo clothing, mugs, cross buck signs, bags and totes, beanies and travel blankets. The Society will make a percentage of the product cost. They will be sold on a 30-day payment on receipt (**Attachment #8**).
 - A motion was made by John Butler and seconded by George Lortz to pursue additional details on the partnership arrangement. The motion passed 8-0-0.
 - A motion was made by Rick Dreistadt to approve the Stores Report. Seconded by Dave Morrison. The motion passed 8-0-0.
- **The Hoosier Line/Annual Calendar: Discussion led by Steve Dolzall.** Steve reported that:
 - The August issue of The Hoosier Line was submitted for printing and the November issue is in process.
 - The February 2026 issue will have an article about the history of the Society and Annual Convention photos.
 - The major-sized articles for the 2026 issues have been determined.
 - The 2026 Calendar will be all in color. The works of several photographers are being considered.

- A motion was made by Don Toon to approve *The Hoosier Line* Report. Seconded by Jamie Stewart. The motion passed 8-0-0.
- **Photo Archives: Discussion led by George Lortz:**
 - George reported that he is working on several projects including:
 - 1) Creating captions for all of the Barriger collection of Monon photos.
 - 2) Editing his personal slides for submission to the Society.
 - 3) Preparing additional photos for inclusion into the Photo Archives database.
 - George suggested that planning was needed to determine the future format and use of the Society's Photo Archives.
 - A motion was made by Jamie Stewart to approve the Photo Archives Report. Seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 8-0-0.
- **Paper Archives: Discussion led by Rick Dreistadt.** Rick reported that:
 - He is continuing to organize and separate the Paper Archives.
 - Open archives meetings are still being planned for Thursdays.
 - A motion was made by John Butler to approve the Paper Archives Report. Seconded by Jamie Stewart. The motion passed 8-0-0.
- **Society Hardware:** No report.
- **Status of HVRM 81532 Restoration Project:** See President's Report.
- **Status of March 15th Mini-Convention:** See Stores and Product Sales Report.
- **Status of Monon Milepost Project: Discussion led by George Lortz.** George reported that he is completing a detailed listing of the Monon's mileposts with the help of Tom Rankin. He will provide the first version of the listing at the next Board Meeting. A decision needs to be made as to how to distribute and use this listing when it's completed.
- **Ideas for 50-Year MRHTS Celebration: Discussion led by George Lortz.** George is working on the outline and content of the presentation. He will provide the outline at the next Board Meeting and ask for additional comments and photo loans. The content of this presentation will be used to create a *THL* article for the February issue.
- **Creating a Basic Monon Railroad Presentation:** No report.

New Business.

- **2025 Cecil Smith Award: Discussion led by Jim Craig.** Jim reported that a list of nominees is needed by the next Board Meeting, if possible, to prepare for the presentation of the award(s) at the September Annual Meeting. A Board member is needed to coordinate this effort.
- **Obituary Policy for Future *THL*s: Discussion led by Jim Craig and George Lortz.** George and Jim reported that it would be appropriate to limit any future obituaries listed in *The Hoosier Line* to those people who were significant contributors to the Society only.
- **Promote MRHTS on June 7th at the Monon Food Fest: Discussion led by Jim Craig.** Jim requested volunteers for the Food Fest. There were no volunteers.

- **Date and Location of the Next MRHTS Board Meeting:** Discussion led by Jim Craig. Jim indicated that he was working on a date and location for the August meeting – possibly Forest Park in Noblesville. He will notify the rest of the Board when he has completed the arrangements.
- **Succession Planning:** Discussion led by Jim Craig. Dave Morrison volunteered to run for Society Treasurer in 2026.
- **50-Year Anniversary Pin:** Discussion led by Don Toon. Don suggested that the Society investigate producing a 50-year pin in commemoration of the anniversary.
- **Donation of a Monon Lantern to the Carmel Museum:** A motion was made by Don Toon and seconded by George Lortz to donate a Monon lantern to the Carmel Museum. The motion passed 8-0-0.
- **Monon Passenger Schedule Board:** Discussion was held about a Monon schedule board that the Society owned. The original location and use of the board will be investigated **(Attachment #9)**.

Meeting Adjourned:

A motion was made by Don Toon to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by George Lortz. The motion passed 8-0-0. The meeting was adjourned by Jim Craig.