

**Board Meeting Minutes  
Western Michigan Society for Industrial Heritage  
October 11, 2007  
6:00 P.M.  
Coopersville Farm Museum**

**1. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 P.M. by President Ed Hanenburg.**

**2. Roll call**

**Present:** Duane Bowman, Philip Cok, Jeff DuPilka, Fred Florshinger, Ed Hanenburg, Russ Osterhart, Carl Sinke, Cindy Timmerman, (meets by-laws quorum of 5).

**3. Minutes of July 12 are unavailable.**

**4. Treasurer's Report was presented.**

Year-to-date Balance Sheet and Income/Expense reports were reviewed. Current balance in Money Market account is \$3,989.61. This reflects 2006 dues payments received in January of 2007 of \$70.00, a \$50 donation to the Handicap Railcar project of \$50.00 and interest income of \$48.83. Fixed assets of \$10,500.00 reflect the value of table saw donation (\$500) and the purchase of the La Reine Railcar (\$10,000).

Expenses paid reflect Chamber of Commerce membership dues of \$75 and two-year domain name renewal expense of \$120.00.

***Motion made (DuPilka) seconded (Sinke) and approved to authorize expenditures and accept treasurer's report.***

**5. Membership**

2006 membership was 13 (Three Lifetime and 10 individual or family). Sec. Cok reported on two new individual membership applications for Armand Balk of Rockford and Morris Hovingh of Hudsonville.

***Motion made (Timmerman) seconded (Sinke) and approved to accept the membership applications of Balk & Hovingh.***

**6. Handicap Railcar Project**

Jeff DuPilka reported on the meeting he and Carl Sinke had with Fred Meijer and his attorney Robert VerHeulen. They asked for a \$50,000 contribution as seed money to then appeal to other foundations. Secretary Cok sent marketing package to Mr. VerHeulen after the meeting. In a subsequent follow up by DuPilka, Mr. VerHeulen stated, "Fred is definitely interested in contributing to the project."

Presentation arrangements to Mr. Meijer and his business associates were discussed and included the possibility of using Ty Robbins's railcar to pick up Mr. Meijer with the C&M train in Meijer's warehouse. ***Jeff will re-contact Mr. VerHeulen and make arrangements with Ty Robbins if appropriate.***

Jeff DuPilka provided background on the C&M freight hauling, track maintenance and line connection agreements. He feels a dinner train will raise more funds than freight business and the Handicap Accessible Railcar is a key to its success.

President Hanenburg questioned the storage arrangements on the Delphi property that is officially for sale. DuPilka reported that money is owed to the C&M by Delphi for services that have yet to be paid. If the property is sold and a settlement reached with the C&M a secure siding area will be constructed to store rolling stock.

***Carl Sinke volunteered to re-contact the director of the Steelcase Foundation and J. Morren whose handicapped daughter has recently passed away.***

Sec. Cok reported that the Hekman Family Foundation was interested as of the last contact (follow up phone call to materials that were sent) but has received nothing confirming the phone conversation. They were interested in providing challenge grants.

Jeff DuPilka felt that Ed's challenge grant presented at the July 12, 2006 board meeting to start renovations was not advisable at this time. The renovation process is a continuum and Jeff feels that a greater financial commitment from major donors is needed to provide the necessary momentum for the project.

Additional marketing approaches and suggestions from Bruce Quinn were discussed. ***Phil Cok to prepare (2) header signs for the Handicap Railcar Project to put onboard the C&M passenger cars.*** He also requested authorization to print brochures for distribution by the C&M Conductors and/or at the C&M depot. He will attempt to get in-kind vendor contributions to cover costs.

***Motion made (Sinke) seconded (Florshinger) and approved to authorize Secretary Cok to spend up to \$500 on marketing materials.***

#### **7. Member Comments**

No additional member comments were received.

**10.** Next meeting will be held Thursday, November 1, 2007 at 6:00 pm at Farm Museum. ***Motion to adjourn (Timmerman) seconded (Florshinger) and approved.*** Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted on this date, 17 October 2007.

***/s/Philip J. Cok, Secretary/Treasurer.***