



***Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society 1045 165 St, Surrey, B.C., Canada, V4A 9A2***

Ph: 604-538-9611 Fx: 604-538-0911 e-mail [allenaubert@shaw.ca](mailto:allenaubert@shaw.ca)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held April 19th, 2008  
1.00pm. to 3.00pm.

Location: Hampton Inn, 19500 Langley By-Pass. Surrey, B.C.

***Present:***

***Executive***

John Sprung, Chair  
Bob Ashton, Vice Chair  
Allen Aubert, Secretary  
Stephen Plant, Treasurer

***Board members***

Councillor Judy Higginbotham-city liaison  
Doug Watkins  
Roy Mufford  
Jerry Gosling  
Ray Hudson

***Regrets:***

Peter Holt

***Society Members***

Tom Allam  
Ken Creasey  
Rene & Judy Doyharcabal  
Ken Estenson  
Henry Ewert  
Karl Goerndt  
Gordon Hall  
Frank & Pearl Horne  
Ron Jones  
Bruce Kerfoot  
Terry Lyster  
William Marr  
Albert Maw  
Ron Powers  
James Rowland  
Vic Sharman  
Ken Silen  
Stewart Walker  
Bill Watson  
John Welsh  
Neal Wilkie  
Ben Weaver  
Total attendance 33

Call to order by John Sprung, Chair @ 1.00pm

### **1 Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Doug Watkins, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Henry Ewert. Carried

### **2. Approval of minutes of 2007 AGM**

Moved by Jerry Gosling, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Watson. Carried

### **3. Annual and Committee Reports**

#### **3.1 Chair's report**

John Sprung reported on the past year. A condensed overview of the Chair's report follows:

- Following introductions of board members in attendance the Chair acknowledged and thanked the FVHRS members who have been and continue volunteering to rehabilitate BCER 1225. Over 6,000 hours of volunteer time has been donated to date.
- 2007 activity was focused mainly on “fix car,” under the direction of the project coordinator FVHRS vice chair, Bob Ashton. The rehabilitation work is being undertaken three days a week by many skilled volunteers. BCER 1225 has been carefully disassembled, all rotten or damaged parts have been removed or repaired. Work is well underway towards reassembly of most areas of the car from the floorboards up including the electrical parts below. The electrical work is being undertaken by volunteer Ron Powers a qualified retired railway electrician. The structural framing is complete; the new window frames have been fabricated and fitted with new safety glass donated by Starline Windows of Langley. BCER 1225 has been ‘raised up’ and is now supported on wood cribbing allowing the removal of the trucks and cleaning of the underside of the car. The trucks have been sent to Carr’s machinery for a complete refurbishment.
- The City of Surrey continued their support with approval of a \$150,000 grant toward the refurbishment of the BCER 1225 trucks. The funds have been received.
- Progress has been made in working with the City of Surrey in regard to exploring how best to move forward with the next phase “run car”. Peter Holt, FVHRS board director, was retained by the city to advance the concept of having the FVHRS heritage rail project become a ‘heritage rail demonstration project’ in time for 2010. This is a work in progress. A meeting between the City Transportation Committee, the president of Southern Railway of BC and the Chair of FVHRS is being scheduled to review the requirements Southern Railway may have to permit the FVHRS restored interurban access to their track between Cloverdale and Newton.
- Work is going on in the background towards acquiring a second interurban BCER 1304 known as the Connaught car.

The SIRS funding offer to Seashore Trolley Museum, the owners of BCER 1304 has been made. Currently Seashore are negotiating with Oregon Electric Railway Society who have 1304 at their Oregon site. It is anticipated that a resolution of the repatriation will be concluded during 2008.

- The recently constructed heated workshop is being used extensively and has made it possible for the volunteers to work during the cold winter months.
- A new storage trailer was donated to the FVHRS and has been located at the South end of the carbarn adjacent to the previously donated office trailer. Roy and Allen repainted the office and storage trailers to match the carbarn giving the site a coordinated appearance. The paint was donated by Cloverdale Paint. It was noted that Cloverdale Paint have become the exclusive donor for all the paint and finishing materials required for the rehabilitation of BCER 1225. Super Save Group has donated a portable toilet complete with cleaning services and this is much appreciated.
- PNR have returned to the site to work on the speeder track. Track gauges were installed on the south and northeast curves to help keep the track in good order for the 2008 season.
- The Society hosted 6 open houses during 2007 with over 1000 people attending. The replicated Sullivan Station was used as a venue to offer tickets for speeder rides and for the sale of hot dogs and liquid refreshments as well as FVHRS souvenirs. Ray Hudson and his musical group entertained the visitors with 'railway songs'.
- The grass cutting of the grounds was carried out by Chris Holt.
- The second annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner took place in November at the New York New York restaurant in Sullivan. Councillor Judy Higginbotham was in attendance and presented the Chair with the first \$75,000 installment to refurbish the BCER 1225 trucks.
- Membership continues to grow with over 200 members now part of the FVHRS.
- The Community Outreach and Public Education Programme continued with generous financial grants from the Surrey Foundation and BC Gaming. The new grants enabled the society to place advertisements in the local papers on a regular basis to promote the open houses. The majority of open house attendees reported they had been attracted to the open house because of the advertisements. The grants have also permitted the society to publish 'enhanced' newsletters new brochures and event bookmarks.
- The society also attends events and makes presentations such as the recent 80<sup>th</sup> Bradner Flower & Garden show where the theme this year was the BC Electric Railway. Several thousand people attended that event.
- The grants have also made it possible to prepare copies of the frequently requested DVD the Chilliwack Run featuring the 'last run' of the interurban and a trip of the interurban from Vancouver to Chilliwack before the line was closed down. The DVD

shows the sad end of the service complete with the burning of the interurbans under the Burrard Street Bridge in Vancouver. The movie was taken by the late Ken Hodgson. Permission was granted to the FVHRS to duplicate and distribute the film.

- 2007 was a busy year and 2008 promises to be as well. Efforts are being made to seek track access from Southern Railway of BC, which is key to 'making the car run'.
- Every effort is being made to secure provincial and federal funding to match the city who has pledged an additional \$1.5 million towards the heritage rail operations, subject to being matched by the province and federal government. The \$3 million total will cover the cost of acquiring a replicated baggage car to house an electric generator, the upgrade of the Southern Rail track to passenger standards between Cloverdale and Newton that includes installation of gates lights and bells at all road crossings.
- The chair outlined areas where the FVHRS members can help, such as:
  - Spread the word and encourage people to become a member. Many in the community are new to the area and are not aware of the interurban or the fact the tracks still exist.
  - Become a volunteer by assisting with the rehabilitation of BCER 1225 or at open houses or other FVHRS events.
  - Contact your MLA and especially The Hon Kevin Falcon the Minister of Transportation and urge his support for the heritage rail project.

### **3.2 Treasurer's Report:**

Stephen Plant, treasurer, distributed copies of the financial position as of February 29 2008, the FVHRS year-end.

- Total assets are \$753,976 as compared with \$661,012 in the previous year
- Total liabilities are nil.
- Held in trust for the Cloverdale Street Car 30 Society (yet to be formed) \$13,171 as compared with \$12,480 (the increase due to interest on the GIC) from the previous year.
- Revenue of \$115,119 compared with \$123,654 from the previous year
- Expenses of \$27,532 compared with \$14,925 the previous year (the increase due to the community outreach advertising funded by grants)

### **3.3 Fundraising Chair's Report:**

- Chair, Allen Aubert, reported that considerable success continued during the year with donations being made to the Society in cash and gifts in kind.
- BC Gaming and the Surrey Foundation made substantial grants to enable the FVHRS Community Outreach and Public Education Programme to expand.
- The city of Surrey approved a grant of \$150,000 toward the refurbishment of the trucks for BCER 1225.
- Gifts in kind from material suppliers continue from companies such as Cloverdale Paint, Supersave Group and recently Hastings Brass.
- Cash donations continue to be made by FVHRS members that help with operation of the society as well as rehabilitation of BCER 1225.

### **3.4 Membership Chair's Report:**

Chair, Allen Aubert reported that membership continues to climb, with currently 215 members as compared with 194 last year. Renewals continue at about 95% with many members making a donation in addition to their membership fee. Tax receipts were sent to everyone making a donation of \$10 or more.

### **4. Receipt of Reports**

Moved Ray Hudson 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Watkins. Carried

### **5 Election of 2008 Board of Directors**

The board of directors was elected by acclamation. (Executive positions for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will be decided by the Board at the May board meeting) The board for 2008 will be.

Robert Ashton,

Allen Aubert

Stephen Plant

John Sprung

Doug Watkins

Roy Mufford

Peter Holt

Jerry Gosling

Ray Hudson

Councillor Judy Higginbotham-council liaison

### **6 Other Business**

FVHRS member John Welsh requested a status report on the original Sullivan station artifact rehabilitation. The Chair reported that plans are being prepared to construct a structure that would cover the artifact and protect it from the weather. There are no plans to restore the artifact as historically; it is better to show the artifact in its existing condition. The society has constructed a replica of the Sullivan Station. Until plans to expand the carbarn are finalized it is not possible to determine the best location on the property to place the artifact for the long term.

#### **6.1 Street Car 30 update**

Ben Weaver representing the Cloverdale District Chamber of Commerce reported that Street Car 30 was in storage in Cloverdale and that progress was being made to create a new society to undertake the restoration of car 30 and to eventually operate in the main street of Cloverdale. Mr. Weaver thanked the FVHRS for holding the streetcar funds in trust and confirmed that as soon as the new society was formed a request would be made to transfer the funds to that society.

Mr. Weaver reported that discussions have commenced with Kwantlen University College in Cloverdale to determine the possibility of car 30 being stored in a building at the campus and the possibility that the College might take on the task of restoring the car as part of its trade school activity.

## **7. Concluding Remarks**

Councillor Higginbotham the FVHRS board liaison addressed the members, confirming her and Council's continuing interest and support for the FVHRS heritage rail interurban project.

## **8. Adjournment of Business**

Moved by Bill Watson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry Lyster that the 2008 AGM be adjourned.

Carried

## **9. Guest speaker**

FVHRS Vice Chair presented a power point slide presentation with a music background showing the BCER 1225 rehabilitation process to date. The presentation started off with 1225 operating in Perris California before being loaded on to a flatbed truck to make its way back to British Columbia. The presentation then took the viewer through the 2 years of rehabilitation activity to date. The presentation was well received and copies were requested for future presentation.

END.