

Niagara Frontier Chapter

National Railway Historical Society

Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier

January 3, 2024

PO Box 1043

North Tonawanda, N. Y. 14120

Motion by Bob Andrycha, Second by John Dahl. That the Chapter extend to Harold O. Douglass Jr. an Honorary Membership in appreciation of his many years of service to the Chapter in many roles.

Name	Vote	Method
Greg Gerstung	Yes	email
Bob Andrycha	Yes	verbal
Nancy Andrycha	Yes	verbal
Neal Keirn	*	
Mark Lewandowski	*	
Becky Gerstung	Yes	verbal
Randy Bugucki	*	email
Bruce Becker	Yes	verbal
Jim Ball	Yes	verbal
Steve Frey	Yes	verbal
Karen Frey	Yes	verbal
John Dahl	Yes	email
Ben Hiltz	Yes	verbal
*No Reply		

Vote closed January 5, 2024. The Motion has carried; the Secretary will please enter this report into the Minutes.

James V. Ball

James V. Ball

President

Minutes of the meeting:

The Regular Monthly meeting of the NRHS Niagara Frontier Chapter, Inc. was held on Friday, February 9, 2024, at 7 pm at the Wheatfield Community Center, Church Street, North Tonawanda.

President Ball called the meeting to order shortly after 7:30 pm. The only guest this evening was a gentleman and his daughter who brought him. We missed recording his name but the daughter asked for a membership application. There were approximately 30 people in attendance. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved: Motion by Steve Frey, second by Nancy Andrycha. Motion Carried.

Treasurer Bruce Becker gave his treasurers report (attached).

Membership Chairman Neal Keirn reported that the renewal process is in full stride again. Donations are coming in with most renewals and some are very generous. We have about 70 renewals at this point.

The Challenge Grant is still in effect, please be generous.

Program Report: President Ball reported that tonight's program would be by Becky Gerstung, a slide program on Stations using slides from the Chapter Archives. Bruce Becker will show Glass Slides from the Milwaukee Road in March. Devan Lawton will show movies of rotary snowplows in Buffalo during the Blizzard of 77 for April. Tony Schill has May, subject is LCL freight. Brian Angevine has a NYC program for June. Beyond that is to be determined.

There was no report from our National Advisory Council Representative, Becky Gerstung.

There was no report from the Central Terminal Restoration Corp. other than as Mark Lewandowski advised, read the newspaper or facebook announcements. Plenty of news there.

The 2024 Calendar is sold out. It made \$683.87 for us.

At John Dahl's request the President asked if everyone had received their ESEX. No one present reported any problem.

Tomorrow will be the Second Annual Cabin Fever Reliever trip to Toronto. Train Departs at 12:04 from Niagara Falls, Ontario station.

We will be setting up for the WNYRHS Toy & Train Show in Friday. Help with loading and unloading will be appreciated.

We will be hosting the Oliver Street Merchants Association meeting on May 20th at 6 pm. We are also participating in their Dyngus Day parade on April 1. There are also plans to participate in the CanalFest parade this year if they have one.

President Ball reported that we are still working on several projects at the Station besides the DRI Grant Work. Bob and Nancy Andrycha have painted the "stone room" and Bob is working on the Utility Room. We are replacing the lights in all the display cases with LED lighting, adding some where there weren't any. We are looking for window shades; green ones are hard to find.

Bruce reported that our Wm. Pomeroy Foundation marker for EL-2 has been received and is currently stored in the station waiting installation. It is the first in the new transportation series. We just need to schedule it's installation at which time there will be a dedication ceremony. All are invited.

The Annual Chapter Banquet will be held Saturday March 23rd in a new location. The venue will be the Unitarian Church of Amherst Social Hall, 6320 Main Street, Williamsville, NY. It will be a buffet style luncheon. Flyers are out. Program by Aaron Heverin: "The lost films of John Prophet III". Cost is \$25.00 per person.

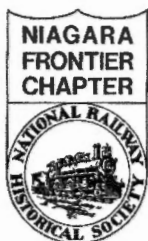
On January 8, Anton Schwarzmeuller and Jim Ball were invited to record via Zoom for a podcast by James Levulis, Host & News Anchor for WAMC Northeast Public Radio. This was included in a podcast as part of the "New York in a minute History" series. The topic was the background of the recently installed "Spy Marker" at Niagara Falls. Anton did a great job.

We have published that the Museum is now open on the first Saturday of each month for the rest of the Winter. January 6th and February 3rd were the first days and we had several visitors each day. February 3rd was low key but we were better prepared. This makes us a year round attraction.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned and the program presented.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "JVB", is written below the text "Respectfully Submitted". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.



Treasurer's Report

February 2024

Opening Account Balance - 2-1-24	\$20,039.19
Plus Total Deposits	+\$1,115.54
Minus Total Withdraws	-\$3,204.59
Closing Account Balance - 2-29-24	\$17,950.14
Total Outstanding Items	-\$299.16
Closing Financial Position - 2-29-24	\$17,650.98

Respectfully Submitted:

Bruce B. Becker

February 2024- Detailed Bank Account Information

Date	Type Trans	Payee/Transaction Description	Squ. Dep. Gross	Withdrawal, Payment (-)	Deposit, Credit (+)	Balance (YEAR)	Comments
2/01/24		[Balance As of 02/01/2024]				\$20,039.19	
2/02/24	Dep.	By Nancy Andrycha			\$150.00	\$20,189.19	\$150 2024 Banquet Rev
2/02/24	Dep.	By Bruce Becker			\$75.00	\$20,264.19	\$60 '24 Membership - \$15.00 General Donation
2/02/24	Mob Dep	By Bruce Becker			\$93.60	\$20,357.79	24 Calendar Sales from Buffalo Store Rev
2/05/24	ACH With	Spectrum		-\$132.97		\$20,224.82	Phone/Data Service Exp
2/05/24	ACH Dep	Square	\$92.00		\$88.73	\$20,313.55	\$50 General Donation - \$42 '24 Membership Rev.
2/05/24	Debit C.	Pioneer Printing		-\$48.00		\$20,265.55	February Newsletter Expense
2/05/24	Debit C.	Amazon		-\$71.98		\$20,193.57	\$43.99 Air Compressor Valve - \$27.99 LED Case Lights Exp
2/05/24	ACH With	Square		-\$16.20		\$20,177.37	Square Marketing Charge Exp
2/07/24	Check	#2032 - City Clerk/Treasurer		-\$3.04		\$20,174.33	Tower Tax Exp
2/07/24	Check	#2033 - City Clerk/Treasurer		-\$4.03		\$20,170.30	Station Tax Exp
2/08/24	ACH Dep	Square	\$55.00		\$53.47	\$20,223.77	\$30 '24 Membership - \$25 General Donation
2/08/24	Check	#2031 - NFTA		-\$15.25		\$20,208.52	Property Lease Exp.
2/12/24	ACH Dep	Square	\$50.00		\$48.25	\$20,256.77	\$50 2024 Banquet Rev
2/12/24	Debit C.	Fed Ex Office		-\$19.54		\$20,237.23	24 Banquet Poster Exp
2/12/24	Debit C.	Amazon		-\$51.89		\$20,185.34	Poster Frames Exp
2/14/24	ACH With	Hartford Insurance		-\$870.00		\$19,315.34	General Insurance Exp
2/14/24	Check	#2030 - Ben Hiltz		-\$28.75		\$19,286.59	Misc. Reimburse Exp
2/16/24	Debit C.	USPS		-\$200.00		\$19,086.59	PO Box Rental 1 Year Exp
2/21/24	Dep.	By Becky Gerstung			\$300.00	\$19,386.59	\$300 General Donation Winter Train Show Rev
2/21/24	ACH With	National Fuel		-\$58.00		\$19,328.59	Gas Exp
2/22/24	Dep.	By Nancy Andrycha			\$210.00	\$19,538.59	\$210 2024 Banquet Rev
2/22/24	ACH Dep	Square	\$25.00		\$23.97	\$19,562.56	\$25 2024 Banquet Rev
2/22/24	Check	#2036 - WNYRHS		-\$100.00		\$19,462.56	Winter Train Show Table Rental Exp
2/26/24	Check	#2034 - Trout Fire		-\$1,477.00		\$17,985.56	Fire Extinguishers Exp
2/27/24	Check	#2037 - Carl Butland		-\$77.94		\$17,907.62	Misc. Reimburse Exp
2/28/24	Check	#2037 - City Clerk/Treasurer		-\$30.00		\$17,877.62	Water/Sewer Exp
2/29/24	ACH Dep	Square	\$75.00		\$72.52	\$17,950.14	\$75 General Donation
			Total	Withdrawals	Total Deposits		
				-\$3,204.59	\$1,115.54		
							Outstanding 2/29/24
							#2035 - Ben Hiltz \$240.66
							#2039 - Nancy Andrycha \$58.50
							Total Outstanding Items \$299.16
							Closing Bank Balance \$17,950.14
							Closing Financial Position \$17,650.98

Niagara Frontier Chapter

National Railway Historical Society

Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier

Report to the Board of Directors

Programs for 2024-5

March: Bruce Becker The Milwaukee Road Glass Slides

Banquet: Aaron Hervrin: The lost films of John Prophet

April: Devan Lawton The Rotary in Buffalo, plus slides

May: Tony Schill The history of LCL Freight

June: Brian Angevine: New York Central

September: TBA

October: TBA

November: TBA

December: Members Night?

Mark Klingel had been invited back, when TBA

Minutes of the meeting:

The Regular Monthly meeting of the NRHS Niagara Frontier Chapter, Inc. was held on Friday, March 8th, 2024, at 7 pm at the Wheatfield Community Center, Church Street, North Tonawanda. Head count for the evening was 32.

President Ball called the meeting to order shortly after 7:15 pm. There were no guests. We missed recording his name but the daughter asked for a membership application. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved: Motion by Ben Hilts, second by Bruce Becker. Motion Carried.

Treasurer Bruce Becker gave his treasurers report (attached).

Membership Chairman Neal Keirn reported that the renewal process is nearly complete. We have 77 members. This does not include family members. Donations have been very generous.

The Challenge Grant is still in effect, please be generous.

Program Report: President Ball reported that tonight's program would be by Bruce Becker who will show Glass Slides and additional photographs from the Milwaukee Road. Devan Lawton will show movies of rotary snowplows in Buffalo during the Blizzard of 77 for April. Tony Schill has May, subject is LCL freight. Brian Angevine has a NYC program for June. Beyond that is to be determined. Mark Klingel will return in October.

There was no report from our National Advisory Council Representative, Becky Gerstung.

President Ball reported that work continues weekly at the Museum. The air compressor has been repaired and is now working perfectly. We are working on mounting or hanging up the three or four large wooden signs that are in the center section. We are cleaning and rewiring cases with LED lights. Work continues on the plumbing and painting of the Utility Room. The Crew has succeeded in opening door E2 and the boxcar door. We found a knuckle that can be used on the GE in there. This will save us almost \$2500.

The Historic marker from the Pomeroy Foundation for EL-2 has been received.

There was no report from the Central Terminal Restoration Corp. other than as Mark Lewandowski advised, read the newspaper or facebook announcements. Plenty of news there.

The 2024 Calendar is sold out. It made \$683.87 for us.

At John Dahl's request the President asked if everyone had received their ESEX. No one present reported any problem.

Bruce Becker reported on the Second Annual Cabin Fever Reliever trip to Toronto. The group met at the station and boarded the midday GO Transit train to Toronto. A good time was had by all.

We were set up for the WNYRHS Toy & Train Show on Feb. 17 & 18. It was a good networking event and the treasury took in about \$300.

We will be hosting the Oliver Street Merchants Association meeting on May 20th at 6 pm. We are also participating in their Dyngus Day parade on April 1. There are also plans to participate in the CanalFest parade this year if they have one.

President Ball reported that we are still working on several projects at the Station besides the DRI Grant Work. Bob and Nancy Andrycha have painted the "stone room" and Bob is working on the Utility Room. We are replacing the lights in all the display cases with LED lighting, adding some where there weren't any. We are looking for window shades; green ones are hard to find.

The Annual Chapter Banquet was held Saturday March 23rd in a new location. The venue was the Unitarian Church of Amherst Social Hall, 6320 Main Street, Williamsville, NY. The room was just the right size for our group. There were 38 in attendance. There was a delicious buffet style luncheon. Program was by Aaron Heverin: "The lost films of John Prophet III". It was spectacular. The event raised over \$500.

The Chapter has been invited to have a table at the Orchard Park Station by the W.N.Y. Garden Railway Society. The date is 5-18 in conjunction with their "Train Day". Members are invited to bring a G scale train to run. Battery power only.

We have published that the Museum is now open on the first Saturday of each month for the rest of the Spring. We need to get displays back together and tour guides scheduled.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned and the program presented.

Respectfully Submitted

Niagara Frontier Chapter

National Railway Historical Society

Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier

March 24, 2025

PO Box 1043
North Tonawanda, N. Y. 14120

Motion by Ben Hiltz, Second by Steve Fry: That the Chapter engage AVA Roofing & Siding of 2120 Niagara Falls Blvd., Tonawanda N. Y. to replace the roof on the Station per the attached proposal. Cost \$43,608.58. Work to be complete by April 5, 2025.

Name	Vote	Method
Greg Gerstung	*	
Bob Andrycha	Yes	email
Nancy Andrycha	Yes	email
Neal Keim	Yes	phone
Mark Lewandowski	Yes	email
Becky Gerstung	Yes	email
Randy Bugucki	*	email
Bruce Becker	Yes	email
Jim Ball	Yes	verbal
Steve Frey	Yes	verbal
Karen Frey	Yes	verbal
John Dahl	Yes	email
Ben Hiltz	Yes	verbal
Al Le Teste	Yes	email
*No Reply		

Vote closed March 25, 2025. The Motion has carried; the Secretary will please enter this report into the Minutes.

James V. Ball

File Archives

Minutes of the meeting:

The Regular Monthly meeting of the NRHS Niagara Frontier Chapter, Inc. was held on Friday, April 12th, 2024, at 7 pm at the Wheatfield Community Center, Church Street, North Tonawanda. Head count for the evening was 29.

President Ball called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 pm. There was a guest. We missed recording his name. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved: Motion by Ben Hilts, second by Greg Gerstung. Motion Carried.

Treasurer Bruce Becker is not with us this evening President Ball read his report (attached).

Membership Chairman Neal Keirn reported that the renewal process is as complete as it is going to get. We have a new member, name not recorded.

The Challenge Grant is still in effect, please be generous.

Program Report: President Ball reported that tonight's program would be by Devan Lawton will show slides and his movies of rotary snowplows in Buffalo during the Blizzard of 77. Tony Schill has May, subject is LCL freight. Brian Angevine has a NYC program for June. Dan Sikorski has taken September, subject to be advised. Mark Klingel will return in October.

The report from our National Advisory Council Representative, Becky Gerstung: Railcamp has more applications than there is room for. The 2024 National Convention will be in Harrisburg, Pa.

President Ball reported that work continues weekly at the Museum. The air compressor has been repaired and is now working perfectly. We are working on mounting or hanging up the three or four large wooden signs that are in the center section. We are cleaning and rewiring cases with LED lights. Work continues on the plumbing and painting of the Utility Room. The Crew has succeeded in opening door E2 and the boxcar door. We found a knuckle that can be used on the GE in there. This will save us almost \$2500. Additional report attached.

The Historic marker from the Pomeroy Foundation for EL-2 has been received. We have resolved the issue of the quality of the casting and painting. It seems that this one is no better or worse than any of the others, we simply never looked that closely at one before. The dedication will be scheduled soon.

There was no report from the Central Terminal Restoration Corp.

Bruce reported via email that we had a \$1000 donation from a member who wished to remain anonymous.

The final report on the Banquet, held March 23rd, was that we had 38 in attendance and the treasury benefitted to the tune of just over \$500. Everyone seemed pleased with the room, the food and the program.

The Chapter had two representatives who marched in the North Tonawanda Dyngus Day Parade. Bruce Becker and Becky Gerstung carried the Chapter Banner. The Parade was April 1.

The upcoming Chiavettas Chicken BBQ, scheduled for May 11 is being Chaired by Bruce Becker and Nancy Andrycha and Karen Frey as co-chairs. Help is always appreciated.

President Ball reported that the Oliver Street Merchants Association will hold their monthly meeting at our Museum on May 20th at 6pm. Many of their members have never been to our Museum.

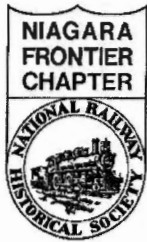
The Chapter has been invited to have a table at the Orchard Park Station by the W.N.Y. Garden Railway Society. The date is 5-18 in conjunction with their "Train Day". Members are invited to bring a G scale train to run. Battery power only.

There will be the usual work session at the Museum tomorrow. Coffee shortly after 9am.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned and the program presented.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. V. Ball Acting Secretary



Treasurer's Report

April 2024

Opening Account Balance - 4-1-24	\$18,472.69
Plus Total Deposits	+\$2,506.17
Minus Total Withdraws	-\$2,328.70
Closing Account Balance - 4-30-24	\$18,650.16
Total Outstanding Items	-\$431.94
Closing Financial Position - 4-30-24	\$18,218.22

Respectfully Submitted:

Bruce B. Becker

[illegible]

Minutes of the meeting:

The Regular Monthly meeting of the NRHS Niagara Frontier Chapter, Inc. was held on Friday, May 10th, 2024, at 7 pm at the Wheatfield Community Center, Church Street, North Tonawanda. Head count for the evening was not recorded.

President Ball called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 pm. There were no guests. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved: Motion by Ben Hilts, second by Lucy Werenski. Motion Carried.

Treasurer Bruce Becker gave his report (attached).

Membership Chairman Neal Keirn reported that there are no new members this month.

Program Report: President Ball reported that tonight's program would be by Tony Schill on the subject of Less than Carload Lot freight handling. Brian Angevine has a NYC program for June. Dan Sikorski has taken September, subject to be advised. Mark Klingel will return in October. Bob Andrycha and Bob Schieb will present their program on Akron and Newstead in November.

The report from our National Advisory Council Representative, Becky Gerstung: Railcamp has more applications than there is room for. The 2024 National Convention will be in Harrisburg, Pa.

President Ball reported that work continues weekly at the Museum. We invited the Mayor (Austin Tylec) to come to the Museum for a meeting. He brought Laura Wilson from the Lumber City Development Corp. Steve Frey, Ben Hilts and President Ball represented the Chapter. The meeting was Thursday afternoon at 3 pm in the Clerks Room of the Museum. The meeting lasted about an hour and was very productive. A separate report attached.

The Historic marker from the Pomeroy Foundation for EL-2 has been received and accepted. We will work with the City regarding a permit to install it.

The upcoming Chiavettas Chicken BBQ, scheduled for May 11 (tomorrow) from 11am until 2:30pm or sold out. Chairman Bruce Becker and co chairs Nancy Andrycha and Karen Frey report all preparations are complete.

President Ball reported that the Oliver Street Merchants Association who were to hold their monthly meeting at our Museum on May 20th have cancelled it.

Bruce Becker reports that there will be a birthday party in the Museum Monday evening.

The Chapter has been invited to have a table at the Orchard Park Station by the W.N.Y. Garden Railway Society. The date is 5-18 in conjunction with their "Train Day". Members are invited to bring a G scale train to run. Battery power only.

We have been invited to visit Frank Pastores model railroad after the June Meeting. It's "right around the corner" from the meeting room. A notice with directions will be provided.

President Ball invited Member John Beutel to the podium where he was presented with his 25 year pin. A photo was taken of the presentation. There are 50 year pins for Fred Schaerr and Rodney Kantorski. Freds will be mailed. Rodney will have his presented when he comes to a meeting.

There will be the usual work session at the Museum tomorrow. Coffee will be on shortly after 9am.

Niagara Frontier Chapter

National Railway Historical Society

Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier

May 18, 2024

PO Box 1043
North Tonawanda, N. Y. 14120

Motion by Greg Gerstung, Second by Bruce Becker : That the Chapter purchase a mirrorless digital camera to be used to digitize Chapter movies by Aaron Heaverin . Cost not to exceed \$1500.00. Camera to be remain as Chapter property.

Name	Vote	Method
Dave Skoney	*	verbal
Greg Gerstung	Yes	verbal
Bob Andrycha	Yes	verbal
Nancy Andrycha	Yes	verbal
Neal Keirn	*	email
Al LeTeste	*	email
Mark Lewandowski	*	
Becky Gerstung	Yes	verbal
Randy Bugucki	*	
Bruce Becker	Yes	verbal
Jim Ball	Yes	verbal
Steve Frey	Yes	verbal
Karen Frey	Yes	verbal
John Dahl	Yes	verbal
Ben Hiltz	Yes	verbal
*No Reply		

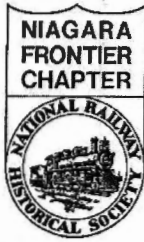
Vote closed May 20, 2024. The Motion has carried; the Secretary will please enter this report into the Minutes.

James V. Ball

James V. Ball

President





Treasurer's Report May 2024

Opening Account Balance - 5-1-24	\$18,650.16
Plus Total Deposits	+\$5,952.75
Minus Total Withdraws	-\$6,331.84
Closing Account Balance - 5-31-24	\$18,271.07
Total Outstanding Items	-\$0.00
Closing Financial Position - 5-31-24	\$18,271.07

5152.75
55B1.84

Respectfully Submitted:

Bruce B. Becker

NOTE: Operating Deposits Includes \$800.00 BBQ Change Return To Account

Operating Withdraws Includes \$800.00 Change From Account For BBQ

May 2024 - Detailed Bank Account Information						
Date	Type Trans	Payee/Transaction Description	Squ. Dep. Gross	Withdrawal, Payment (-)	Deposit, Credit (+)	Balance (YEAR)
5/01/24		[Balance As of 05/01/2024]				\$18,650.16
5/01/24	Check	#2049 - Amherst Alarm		-\$252.00		\$18,398.16
5/02/24	Dep.	By Bruce Becker			\$235.00	\$18,633.16
5/02/24	ACH With	Spectrum		-\$139.98		\$18,493.18
5/02/24	Check	#2047 - Bob Andrycha		-\$179.94		\$18,313.24
5/03/24	Debit C.	Carousel Checks		-\$60.99		\$18,252.25
5/03/24	Debit C.	Pioneer Printing		-\$48.64		\$18,203.61
5/06/24	Debit C.	Restaurant Depot - SYR		-\$24.40		\$18,179.21
5/06/24	Debit C.	Bj's		-\$153.27		\$18,025.94
5/07/24	Debit C.	Restaurant Depot - BUF		-\$228.45		\$17,797.49
5/07/24	Debit C.	Amazon		-\$65.99		\$17,731.50
5/09/24	Dep.	By Bruce Becker			\$67.00	\$17,798.50
5/09/24	Debit C.	Bj's		-\$152.17		\$17,646.33
5/10/24	Dep.	By Bruce Becker			\$150.00	\$17,796.33
5/10/24	Check	#2050 - Cash		-\$800.00		\$16,996.33
5/10/24	ACH Dep	Square	\$30.00		\$28.83	\$17,025.16
5/13/24	Dep.	By Bruce Becker			\$3,945.00	\$20,970.16
5/13/24	ACH Dep	Square	\$480.00		\$465.73	\$21,435.89
5/13/24	ACH Dep	Square	\$75.00		\$72.22	\$21,508.11
5/14/24	ACH With	Hartford Insurance		-\$925.07		\$20,583.04
5/15/24	Dep.	By Bruce Becker			\$965.00	\$21,548.04
5/17/24	Check	#2051 - Chiavetta Catering		-\$2,520.00		\$19,028.04
5/20/24	ACH Dep	Square	\$25.00		\$23.97	\$19,052.01
5/21/24	Debit C.	Oliver Street Merchants Assoc.		-\$60.00		\$18,992.01
5/21/24	ACH With	National Fuel		-\$114.97		\$18,877.04
5/24/24	ACH With	National Grid		-\$248.00		\$18,629.04
5/24/24	Check	#2052 - City Clerk/Treasurer		-\$38.00		\$18,591.04
5/28/24	Debit C.	Amazon		-\$79.99		\$18,511.05
5/30/24	Check	#2052 - Buffalo Sign Rental		-\$100.00		\$18,411.05
5/31/24	ACH With	Spectrum		-\$139.98		\$18,271.07
				Total Withdrawals	Total Deposits	
				-\$6,331.84	\$5,952.75	
Outstanding 4/30/24						
Total Outstanding Items \$0.00						
Closing Bank Balance \$18,271.07						
Closing Financial Position \$18,271.07						

Minutes of the meeting:

The Regular Monthly meeting of the NRHS Niagara Frontier Chapter, Inc. was held on Friday, June 14th, 2024, at 7 pm at the Wheatfield Community Center, Church Street, North Tonawanda. Head count for the evening was 30 people.

President Ball called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 pm. There were no guests. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved: Motion by Ben Hilts, second by Lucy Werenski. Motion Carried.

Treasurer Bruce Becker gave his report (attached).

Membership Chairman Neal Keirn reported that there are no new members this month.

Program Report: President Ball reported that tonight's program would be by Brian Angevine on the NYC. Dan Sikorski has taken September, subject to be advised. Mark Klingel will return in October. Bob Andrycha and Bob Schieb will present their program on Akron and Newstead in November. Tony Schill has taken December. There is nothing scheduled for 2025 as yet.

There is no report from our National Advisory Council Representative, Becky Gerstung.

President Ball reported that work continues weekly at the Museum. We invited the Mayor (Austin Tylec) to come to the Museum for a meeting. He brought Laura Wilson from the Lumber City Development Corp. Steve Frey, Ben Hilts and President Ball represented the Chapter. The meeting was Thursday afternoon at 3 pm in the Clerks Room of the Museum. The meeting lasted about an hour and was very productive. A separate report attached.

The Historic marker from the Pomeroy Foundation for EL-2 has been received and accepted. We will work with the City regarding a permit to install it.

The Chiavettas Chicken BBQ made us over \$1100. Chairman Bruce Becker and co chairs Nancy Andrycha and Karen Frey all did an excellent job.

Bruce Becker reports that there was a birthday party in the Museum Monday evening (date) The event netted us \$965.

We have been invited to visit Frank Pastores model railroad after the Meeting. It's "right around the corner" from the meeting room. A notice with directions was be provided.

There will be the usual work session at the Museum tomorrow. Coffee will be on shortly after 9am.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned and the program presented.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. V. Ball

Acting Secretary

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned and the program presented.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. V. Ball

Acting Secretary

Niagara Frontier Chapter

National Railway Historical Society

Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier

June 14, 2024

PO Box 1043
North Tonawanda, N. Y. 14120

Motion by Ben Hiltz, Second by Bruce Becker: That the Chapter purchase an 18 wheeler truckload, approximately 35 to 38 tons of #3A ballast for the "Mainline" rebuild . Cost not to exceed \$1300 delivered.

Name	Vote	Method
Dave Skoney	*	
Greg Gerstung	Yes	email
Bob Andrycha	Yes	verbal
Nancy Andrycha	Yes	verbal
Neal Keirn	*	email
Mark Lewandowski	*	
Becky Gerstung	Yes	verbal
Randy Bugucki	*	email
Bruce Becker	Yes	verbal
Jim Ball	Yes	verbal
Steve Frey	Yes	verbal
Karen Frey	Yes	verbal
John Dahl	Yes	email
Ben Hiltz	Yes	verbal
*No Reply		

Vote closed June 19, 2024. The Motion has carried; the Secretary will please enter this report into the Minutes.

James V. Ball

Niagara Frontier Chapter

National Railway Historical Society

Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier

August 26, 2024

PO Box 1043

North Tonawanda, N. Y. 14120

Motion by Ben Hiltz, Second by Bruce Becker: That the Chapter hire Carl Frey To replace the existing air conditioning unit for the Archive Room. This to include removing the existing unit, replace it with a new unit (current technology) including all controls, new wiring and disposal of the old unit. Work to include the plumbing under the Utility room. Time to complete estimated at 7 to 10 days. Price \$3,200.00

Name	Vote	Method
Dave Skoney	*	
Greg Gerstung	*	email
Bob Andrycha	Yes	email
Nancy Andrycha	Yes	email
Neal Keirn	Yes	email
Mark Lewandowski	*	
Becky Gerstung	Yes	verbal
Randy Bugucki	*	email
Bruce Becker	Yes	email
Jim Ball	Yes	email
Steve Frey	Yes	verbal
Karen Frey	Yes	verbal
John Dahl	Yes	email
Ben Hiltz	Yes	verbal
*No Reply		

Vote closed August 31, 2024. The Motion has carried; the Secretary will please enter this report into the Minutes.

James V. Ball

James V. Ball

President

Niagara Fronter Chapter- National Railway Historical Society
Meeting of the Board of Directors
September 17, 2024. 7: 00 PM

In attendance: Jim Ball, Bruce Becker, Ben Hiltz, Neil Keirn, Steve Frey, Karen Frey, John Dahl, Al Latest, Greg Gerstung, Becky Gerstung, Bob Andrycha.

- 1) Appointment of Acting Secretary – Karen Frey.
- 2) Minutes of the last meeting – Tabled.
- 3) Treasures Report- Bruce Becker - \$ 12,478 with a \$ 2,000 check outstanding. House Brokerage Account to accept stock for Non-profit will be liquidated when received. DRI report given, matching donations \$28,000.
- 4) Membership Report – Neil Keirn – 3 Renewals on Friday, No new Members, Total Membership Mid 90's.
- 5) Advisory Council Rep Report – Becky Gerstung – Conference was a success, \$50,000 grant, Members 4,000, Rail Camp had 24 Kids. Received \$ 30,000 for Scholarships, Need new "younger" Councilors.
- 6) Calendar – Bob Andrycha and Greg Gerstung – Completed – Cost Onsite \$13, Mail order \$15.00, Two for \$30.00.
- 7) The ESEX- John Dahl- printer was slower this month to get out, was sent to printer end of Month and was a Monday Holiday in beginning of this month. Will continue to work with current printer. Need more Articles – Maybe ask for personal stories.
- 8) Activities – Monthly meeting – renew room in December- second Friday of the Month, have programs through end of the year.
Museum is open all year round -First Saturday of the Month open to the public,
Banquet Date to be determined program is set, Winter Walk Saturday December 7 – have Santa, Train Show in November, October 12- Path Through History -unveiling of the marker. October 12th – Art for Oliver, November 18th- Merchant meeting at the Museum at 6 pm. Working on Art installation at the North end of the Museum property – art display would be a steel N and T.
- 9) Disposition of the Plymouth Locomotive and DL&W sign – Plymouth has no historical ties to area – vote to Deaccession -Bruce Becker- 2nd Ben Hiltz – pass All in Favor.

DL&W Sign private collector would like would give a donation to Museum -called to a vote Becky Gerstung/ 2nd Ben Hiltz- pass 11 for 1oppose (John Dahl) – Beck to take care of the arrangements.

10) Need for storage-discussion about a shipping container for storage, estimate cost of \$5,000-\$7,000. Need to look at options and is it permitted by the city.

11) Other Items of Business- Display case new top \$250, headlight glass \$91 each – vote Steve-2nd Bob – vote carried.

Steve Frey- Need Manpower for track work that still needs to be done, also accrued engine for the Tl.

Plow Contract cost is \$1000. This year called to vote- Ben-2nd Steve carried to pay the bill.

Al – Randell that mows the grounds is asking for a new battery for his mower that he uses to cut the grass – vote called Steve- 2nd Ben to have Randell buy the battery and bring the bill/ receipt in to be reimbursed. -vote carried.

Ben H- Junk at the end of the loading dock will reach out to Randy to clean up.

Adjure Motion Steve-2nd Ben – Carried.

Niagara Frontier Chapter

National Railway Historical Society

Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier

Candidates for Election to the Board of Directors for 2025

Name	Office	Confirmed
James V. Ball	President	*
Steven Frey	Vice President	*
Bruce B. Becker	Treasurer	*
Nancy Andrycha	Corresponding Secretary	*
Karen Frey	Recording Secretary	*
Neil Keirn	Membership Secretary	*
	Comptroller	Vacant
John C. Dahl	Chapter Director, Editor	*
Mark Lewandowski	Community Liaison Officer	*
Gregory Gerstung	Chapter Director, Historian	*
Robert Andrycha	Chapter Director, Museum	*
Albert Le Teste	Chapter Director, Head Grounds Keeper	*
Benton Hiltz	Chapter Director, Procurement Officer	*
Randy Bugucki	Chapter Director, Equipment Restoration	*

Niagara Frontier Chapter

National Railway Historical Society

Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier

September 24, 2024

PO Box 1043

North Tonawanda, N. Y. 14120

Motion by Bruce Becker, Second by Becky Gerstung: That the Board of Directors approve us going into collaboration with the Oliver Street Merchants Association and the City of North Tonawanda for the acquisition and installation of an "artpiece" on the Museum property, at no cost to the Museum

Name	Vote	Method
Dave Skoney	Yes	verbal
Greg Gerstung	Yes	email
Bob Andrycha	Yes	verbal
Nancy Andrycha	Yes	verbal
Neal Keirn	Yes	email
Mark Lewandowski	*	
Becky Gerstung	Yes	verbal
Randy Bugucki	*	email
Bruce Becker	Yes	verbal
Jim Ball	Yes	verbal
Steve Frey	Yes	verbal
Karen Frey	Yes	email
John Dahl	Yes	email
Ben Hiltz	Yes	verbal
*No Reply		

Vote closed September 27, 2024. The Motion has carried; the Secretary will please enter this report into the Minutes.

James V. Ball



James V. Ball

Minutes of the meeting:

The Regular Monthly meeting of the NRHS Niagara Frontier Chapter, Inc. was held on Friday, October 11th, 2024, at 7 pm at the Wheatfield Community Center, Church Street, North Tonawanda. Head count for the evening was 31 people.

President Ball called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 pm. There were no guests. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved: Motion by Lucy Werenski second by Steve Werenski. Motion Carried.

Treasurer Bruce Becker gave his report, copy attached. We received a \$20,000 donation.

Membership Chairman Neal Keirn was absent, no report.

Program Report: President Ball reported that tonight's program would be by Mark Klingel on Railroads along the NY /Pa border. Bob Andrycha and Bob Schieb will present their program on Akron and Newstead in November. Tony Schill has taken December. M. J. Lewandowski has January, subject TBA. There is full a program report attached.

National Advisory Council Representative, Becky Gerstung reported on the National Convention in Harrisburg and Railcamp.

President Ball reported that work continues weekly at the Museum. A separate report attached.

On Tuesday September 24 the Oliver Street Merchants Associations' Public Art Committee met at the Railroad Museum at 6pm. Bruce Becker to acted as host with Becky Gerstung and Jim Ball on hand for support. Councilman Frank Di Bernardo represented the City of N. Tonawanda. Katy Baker, Vice President of the Merchant Association and Natalie Brown, Chair of the Public Art Committee for the Oliver Street Merchants Assoc. It was a good meeting and we agreed to ask our Board to approve entering into collaboration with the City and the Merchants Association for the project. A brief tour of the Museum followed. Notes are attached.

The Historic marker from the Pomeroy Foundation for EL-2 has been received and the permit secured to install it. The post was set this morning. The formal unveiling is scheduled for tomorrow, October 12 at 1pm. Everyone is invited.

The new 2025 Chapter Calendar is on sale here tonight. The price is \$15.00. We had 325 printed this year as the 300 we printed last year sold out.

President Ball announced that the Chapter would rent tables again at the WNYRHS show at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg, Nov. 23 & 24. We will also open the Museum for WinterWalk on the first Saturday of December.

Committee Chairman Bruce Becker reported for the Committee to select a Candidate for the post of Advisory Council Representative to National. Becky Gerstung has agreed to be reelected. The nomination will be reported in the Empire State Express and the election will be at the November Membership Meeting.

There will be the usual work session at the Museum tomorrow. Coffee will be on shortly after 9am.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned and the program presented.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. V. Ball

Acting Secretary

Meeting to Discuss a Proposal for Public Art/ Sculpture piece at the Railroad Museum

Introductions:

Katy Baker
Vice President
Oliver Street Merchants Association

Natalie Brown
Chair, Public Art Committee for the Oliver Street Merchants Assoc.
Owner, Project 308 Gallery

Proposal for Partnership: Installation of Public Art Sculpture at the Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier

From: Oliver Street Merchants Association Subcommittee: Oliver Street Public Art Committee
To: The Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier

About Us

The Oliver Street Merchants Association (OSMA) is a diverse organization of business owners, professionals, and volunteers that advocate for the revitalization of North Tonawanda's Oliver Street Business Corridor. The group started in 2015 and since then has become a city-known entity that promotes local businesses while showing the value of taking care of the community. is a community-driven organization dedicated to enhancing the aesthetic appeal and cultural richness of Oliver Street.

Our public art subcommittee is focused on the placement of public art installations to beautify the neighborhood, foster community pride, and attract visitors.

Purpose

We are writing to propose a partnership with the Railroad Museum for the installation of a public art sculpture on your property by September 1, 2024 at the latest. This collaboration aims to leverage the unique historical and cultural significance of the Railroad Museum to create a landmark art piece that will enhance the community's vibrancy and appeal.

Proposed Project

Art Installation: We propose to fully fund and install a sculpture manufactured by Hadley Exhibits on the property of the Railroad Museum in an effort for creative placemaking. The

sculpture will be designed by Hadley Exhibits with the cooperation of the Oliver Street Merchants Public Art Committee and approval of the Railroad Museum.

We are inspired by this project manufactured by Hadley Exhibits- the "A" in Allentown. Please see photos below:



(Photos of the "A" sculpture that was manufactured by Hadley Exhibits and funded by the AKG Public Art Fund. This A is located on the corner of Allen and Delaware Streets.)

We could ask Hadley to create a sculpture that says "NT" to reflect local pride for North Tonawanda. We could ask them to draft up more ideas that include a "selfie" type of sculpture to entice visitors to take photos.



Hadley Exhibits is aware of our budget and timeline.

You can learn more about Hadley Exhibits and their work within the WNY community on their website: <https://hadlevexhibits.com/>

Location: We suggest a prominent location on the museum's property that is visible to both museum visitors and the general public. Ideal locations could include the lawn space in front of the museum.

attach to Minutes

Benefits to the Railroad Museum:

1. **Cultural Enrichment:** The sculpture will enhance the cultural landscape of the museum, providing an additional attraction for visitors and connecting the museum's historical significance with contemporary artistic expression.
1. **Increased Foot Traffic:** The installation will attract art enthusiasts, tourists, and community members, thereby increasing the museum's visibility and visitor numbers.
2. **Community Engagement:** The project offers opportunities for community involvement through public art events, workshops, and educational programs related to the sculpture's theme.
3. **Enhanced Aesthetics:** The sculpture will beautify the museum's exterior, contributing to the overall aesthetic appeal of the site.

Responsibilities

Oliver Street Merchants Association:

- Providing financial support for the project.
- Managing the process with Hadley Exhibits and overseeing the installation.
- Managing any permits or insurance needed for the public art piece (in partnership with the RR museum as needed)
- Coordinating community engagement activities and promotional events.

Railroad Museum:

- Providing the site for the sculpture installation.
- Collaborating on the design approval.
- Assisting with community engagement and promotional efforts.

Conclusion

The Oliver Street Merchants Association is excited about the possibility of collaborating with the Railroad Museum on this meaningful project. We believe that this partnership will not only enhance the visual appeal of the museum but also contribute to the cultural and social fabric of our community. We look forward to discussing this proposal further and exploring how we can work together to bring this vision to life.

Thank you for considering this proposal. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate.

Niagara Frontier Chapter

National Railway Historical Society

Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier

October 28, 2024

PO Box 1043
North Tonawanda, N. Y. 14120

Motion by Bruce Becker and Second by Ben Hiltz : That the Chapter purchase eight 100lb kegs of 5/8" X 6" track spikes (944 total spikes) from Kimes Steel of New Haven, WV. This includes ground freight delivery via Fed Ex Freight. Expenditure not to exceed \$1300.

Name	Vote	Method
Dave Skoney	Yes	verbal
Greg Gerstung	Yes	email
Al Le Teste	Yes	email
Bob Andrycha	Yes	email
Nancy Andrycha	Yes	email
Neal Keirn	*	email
Mark Lewandowski	Yes	email
Becky Gerstung	Yes	email
Randy Bugucki	*	email
Bruce Becker	Yes	email
Steve Frey	Yes	email
Karen Frey	Yes	email
John Dahl	Yes	email
Ben Hiltz	Yes	verbal

*No Reply

Vote closed October 31, 2024. Motion has been Carried; the Secretary will please enter this report into the Minutes.

James V. Ball



President

Niagara Frontier Chapter

National Railway Historical Society

Railroad Museum of the Niagara Frontier

October 27, 2024

PO Box 1043

North Tonawanda, N. Y. 14120

Motion by Greg Gerstung, Second by Steve Frey: That the Chapter purchase an Epson model ET-16600 Printer for the Archive Room. Specifications: printer/copier/scanner, an eco-tank printer that prints up to 13"x19" (11"x17" borderless), scans up to 11"x17" duplex (double sided) and copies up to 11"x17". They are currently selling for \$1,000.

Greg

Name	Vote	Method
Dave Skoney	Yes	phone
Greg Gerstung	Yes	email
Al Le Teste	Yes	email
Bob Andrycha	Yes	email
Nancy Andrycha	Yes	email
Neal Keirn	*	email
Mark Lewandowski	*	
Becky Gerstung	Yes	email
Randy Bugucki	*	email
Bruce Becker	Yes	email
Steve Frey	Yes	email
Karen Frey	Yes	email
John Dahl	Yes	email
Ben Hiltz	Yes	verbal

*No Reply

Vote closed October 31, 2024. Motion has been Carried; the Secretary will please enter this report into the Minutes.

James V. Ball

James V. Ball
President

Minutes of the meeting:

The Regular Monthly meeting of the NRHS Niagara Frontier Chapter, Inc. was held on Friday, November 8th, 2024, at 7 pm at the Wheatfield Community Center, Church Street, North Tonawanda. Head count for the evening was 29 people.

President Ball called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 pm. There were no guests. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved: Motion by Mark Lewandowski second by Rodney Kantorski. Motion Carried.

Treasurer Bruce Becker gave his report, copy attached.

Membership Chairman Neal Keirn gave his report, renewals are being sent out. Please send them back promptly.

Program Report: President Ball reported that tonight's program would be Bob Andrycha and Bob Schieb who will present their program on Akron and Newstead. Tony Schill has taken December. M. J. Lewandowski has January, subject TBA. There is full a program report attached.

National Advisory Council Representative, Becky Gerstung reported on the National Convention in Harrisburg and Railcamp.

At this point President Ball conducted the Election of Advisory Council Representative. According to the By Laws of the Chapter, He read the Candidates name and asked for any nominations from the floor. Their being none, he directed the Acting Secretary to cast one ballot electing Rebecca Gerstung to the office for the year 2025. There was a round of applause.

President Ball read the List of Candidates for Election to the Board of Directors. The List will be published in the December ESEX and the election will be held at that December meeting.

President Ball reported that work continues weekly at the Museum. A separate report attached.

We held the Unveiling Ceremony for the Historic Marker for EL-2 on the 12th of October. Bruce Becker was MC and Anton Schwarzmuller and President Ball spoke. Greg Gerstung photographed the proceedings. There a few onlookers.

The new 2025 Chapter Calendar is on sale here tonight. The price is \$15.00. We had 325 printed this year as the 300 we printed last year sold out.

President Ball announced that the Chapter would rent tables again at the WNYRHS show at the Fairgrounds in Hamburg, Nov. 23 & 24. Set up for the show will be Friday morning at 10 am. We will also open the Museum for WinterWalk on the first Saturday of December.

There will be the usual work session at the Museum tomorrow. Coffee will be on shortly after 9am.

President Ball made note that Monday is Veterans Day and wished all fellow veterans Thank You their service and have a great day.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned and the program presented.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. V. Ball

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JVB' with a stylized flourish.

Acting Secretary

Minutes of the meeting:

The Regular Monthly meeting of the NRHS Niagara Frontier Chapter, Inc. was held on Friday, December 13th, 2024, at 7 pm at the Wheatfield Community Center, Church Street, North Tonawanda. Head count for the evening was 20 people.

President Ball called the meeting to order shortly after 7:00 pm. There were no guests. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved: Motion by Steve Frey second by Ben Hiltz. Motion Carried.

Treasurer Bruce Becker is traveling; no report.

Membership Chairman Neal Keirn gave his report, renewals are being sent out. Those who get a printed ESEX will get a paper renewal in the mail, those who get an electronic ESEX will get an emailed renewal. Please send them back by January 15th.

Program Report: President Ball reported that tonight's program would be by Tony Schill on the Narrow Gauge Railways of India. M. J. Lewandowski has January, subject to be Whistle Stop Campaigns of former Presidents. There is full a program report attached.

National Advisory Council Representative, Becky Gerstung had no report, National is going through the renewal process.

At this point President Ball turned the meeting over to Advisory Council Representative Becky Gerstung who conducted the Election of Officers to the Board of Directors. According to the By Laws of the Chapter, She read the Candidates name and asked for any nominations from the floor. Their being none, she directed the Acting Secretary to cast one ballot electing the slate of candidates.

Long time Chapter Member and member of the Board of Directors Dave Skoney passed away December 4th.

President Ball reported that work continues weekly at the Museum. A separate report attached.

We were at the WNYRHS Train Show at the Fairgrounds November 16th & 17th. We had 4 tables and did very well.

The new 2025 Chapter Calendar is on sale here tonight. The price is \$13.00. We had 325 printed this year as the 300 we printed last year sold out.

There will be the usual work session at the Museum tomorrow. Coffee will be on shortly after 9am.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned and the program presented.

Respectfully Submitted,

J. V. Ball

Acting Secretary