MRHTS Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2026, Arcadia, IN

The meeting was conducted at the depot in Arcadia, IN at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting called to order by: Don Toon at 1:00 p.m.

Members Present: Wayne Zeman, Jim Craig, Joe Crnkovich, Mike Benham, George Lortz, Frank Van Bree, Rick Dreistadt, John Butler, Don Toon

Members Absent: Jamie Stewart and Ron Simunic.

Guests Present: Amy Butler and Bill Van Bree.

President's Report: Discussion was led by Don Toon.

- **MRHTS Outlook** – Don reported that the outlook for the MRHTS is very positive. During the last several, years significant and positive financial decisions were made.
  - Long-term gains were made by donating car #2 and revenue-sharing with HVRM.
  - Short-term gains were made through final payments from NKP Express for caboose #81528. The last payment is due this year.
  - There was strong attendance at the 2025 Annual Meeting.
  - We had a strong showing by finding new members as we lost older members.
  - The *THL* and calendar are bringing back old members and attracting new members.

- **Personal Tasks** – Don presented a list of tasks that he personally was working on. (**Attachment A**). One of the tasks listed was the convene a MRHTS sub-committee to prepare a five to ten-year strategic plan. George Lortz and Wayne Zeman volunteered to serve on this sub-committee.

- A motion was made by Wayne Zeman to approve the report and seconded by Joe Crnkovich. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Secretary's Report: Discussion led by George Lortz.

- George presented a copy of the March 26, 2026 Board Meeting minutes (**Attachment B**) and a motion was made by John Butler to approve and seconded by Wayne Zeman. The motion passed 9-0-0.
- George reported that the March 28, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes will be posted on the MRHTS website.
- George requested that it would be helpful if digital copies of all committee reports be emailed to him after each Board Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Discussion was led by Don Toon.

- Don reported that Dave Morrison had resigned from his post on the Board and as MRHTS Treasurer.
- Don presented the Financial Report as of 7/16/26. **(Attachment C)**
- The income vs. expenses for the period was a positive $2,845.82.
- A motion was made by George Lortz to approve the report and seconded by Rick Dreistadt. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Old Business.

- **2026 Annual Convention:** Discussion led by Jim Craig and Joe Crnkovich.

  - To date there are 14 people registered for the convention.
  - There are 30 rooms booked at the Hyatt Place for attendees.
  - The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, 8/30 at 9:00 a.m.
  - The number of swap meet tables has not been determined yet.
  - There is an 8/15 deadline for making reservations for the trip and meals.

- **2027 Board Elections:** Discussion led by Don Toon.

  - As of 7/16/26, there have been nominations for Don Toon as President and Jamie Stewart for the MRHTS Board.
  - The nominations are due by 7/17/26

  A motion was made by Joe Crnkovich to approve the report and seconded by Frank Van Bree. The motion passed 9-0-0.

- **Society Membership:** Discussion led by Jim Craig for Jamie Stewart.

  Jim submitted a MRHTS membership report. **(Attachment D)**

  There are two additional Lifetime members since the last report and total membership numbers 434.

  A motion was made by Wayne Zeman to approve the report and seconded by Rick Dreistadt. The motion passed 9-0-0.

- **Stores and Product Sales:** Discussion led by Jim Craig and Wayne Zeman.

  Jim submitted a MRHTS Stores report. (**Attachment E**)

  Wayne reported on which train shows may be attended for MRHTS sales. Attending the B&O convention was discussed.

  It was suggested that items on hand in Stores be marked down for the Annual Swap Meet.

  The following were discussed as new product offerings from the MRHTS:
  - Monon black hat
  - SW1 locomotive from Rapido
  - Car #2
  - Coke car

  Cost estimates and drawings will be needed.

  A motion was made by John Butler to approve the report and seconded by Rick Dreistadt. The motion passed 9-0-0.

- ***The Hoosier Line*/Annual Calendar:** Discussion led by Don Toon (substituting for Steve Dolzall).

  Don submitted a THL/Annual Calendar report from Steve and Gary Dolzall. (**Attachment F**)

The 2027 annual calendar will be shipped with the November 2026 issue of the THL.

A discussion was started about the future status of an MRHTS annual calendar. The THL Editorial Staff has announced that they do not intend to produce a 2028 calendar. A cost breakdown of the annual calendar over the last ten years was presented. (**Attachment G**). Discussions about alternatives are on-going.

- **Photo Archives and Photo Databases:** Discussion led by Don Toon and George Lortz.

  Don submitted a report on the recent activities of the Photo Archives committee. (**Attachment H**)

  Don reported that he was continuing research on the best possible option for an independent large document scanner. Two of them that he is considering are the WideTek 36CL Scanner and the WideTek 36CL-MF Scanner.

  Don suggested that the Society consider selling available semaphore blades. Wayne Zeman moved that the Society make this decision, seconded by George Lortz. The motion passed 9-0-0.

  George reported that requests for MRHTS photos continue at a rate of about 5 – 6 per year. To date, he has supplied the digital images of the photos at no cost. It was suggested that perhaps the Society should consider creating a policy about this service to members.

- **Paper Archives:** Discussion led by Rick Dreistadt.

  Rick reported that he is continuing to research the contents of the Paper Archives in Salem and most of them have been inventoried.

- **Status of HVRM 81532 Restoration Project:** Discussion led by Jim Craig.

  Jim reported that HVRM Project Manager Kevin Norman of the caboose #81532 restoration announced on 6/10/26 that he could no longer oversee that restoration. Les Beckman at HVRM has volunteered to take over those responsibilities.

  Les has agreed to keep Jim and Rick Berg appraised of the status of restoration work and send photos to Rick for use on the MRHTS website. Les will work with Jim on the use of the restoration funds which currently are $8,638.00

New Business.

- **2027 Board Meeting Dates**: Discussion led by Don Toon.

  Don reported that future MRHTS Board Meeting dates would be announced at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

- **Aluminum Sign for Salem:** Discussion led by Don Toon.

  Don reported that he has arranged to have a lighted Monon aluminum sign built for the Salem Depot and requested approval from the Board members.

A motion was made by Wayne Zeman to approve the project and seconded by Rick Dreistadt. The motion passed 9-0-0.

Meeting Adjourned:

A motion was made by Wayne Zeman to adjourn the meeting and seconded by John Butler. The motion passed 9-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.