



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

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Minutes of Annual General Meeting held April 30th, 2011  
1.00pm. to 3.30pm.

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

***Present:***

***Executive***

John Sprung, Chair  
Bob Ashton, Vice Chair  
Allen Aubert, Secretary

***Board members***

Roy Mufford  
Jerry Gosling  
Peter Holt  
Rene Doyharcabal.

Ron Powers

Regrets:

Stephen Plant, Treasurer  
Ray Hudson, Communications Director

***Keynote speakers:***

Councillor Barbara Steele  
Robert Ashton 1225 rehabilitation presentation update

***Society Members***

Liz Aubert  
Tom Allam  
Wayne Abbot  
Doreen Anderson  
Frank Benedict  
Don Bennett  
Don Bishop  
Thomas Carr  
Judy Doyharcabal  
Henry Ewert  
Ronald Finlayson  
Karl Goerndt  
Roy Griffith  
Gordon Hall  
Vincent Holmes  
Frank Horne  
Vincent Holmes  
Deb Jack  
Ron Jones

Phil LeFebure  
Terry Lyster  
Pio Mason  
Larry Perkins  
Myna McRea  
David Sparks  
Vic Sharman  
Ken Silen  
Robert Storey  
Richard Sutcliffe  
Bill Watson  
Doug Watkins  
Bob Webster  
Total attendance 40

Call to order by John Sprung, Chair @ 1.00pm

### **1 Approval of Agenda**

Moved by John Sprung, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rene Doyharcabal. Carried

### **2. Approval of minutes of 2010 AGM**

Moved by Henry Ewert, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry Lyster. Carried

### **3. Address by Councillor Barbara Steele**

Councillor Steele brought greetings from Mayor Watts and Surrey Council and stated how pleased council was with the progress that the volunteers of the FVHRS have made to rehabilitate BCER 1225 to the stage where that car is about to become operational. Councillor Steele commented that she was grateful to everyone involved and assured the meeting that she and Council are looking forward to the official opening at the Cloverdale site later in the year.

### **4. Election of Board of directors**

Bob Ashton the nominations chairman reported that there were a total of 11 board member positions. Board membership terms are for 2 years with 4 members ending their terms this year. Directors Ron Powers, Ray Hudson, Peter Holt and John Sprung have agreed to run for a further 2-year term. Bill Watson has been nominated to a 2-year term making up a board membership of 10. There have been no nominations from the membership. With one vacancy remaining there will not be an election.

**Moved by Bob Ashton 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doug Watkins that the 5 members standing for election be approved. Carried.**

### **5. Annual and Committee Reports**

#### **5.1 Chair's report**

John Sprung reported on the past year. A summary report follows:

## Chair's report

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### *AGM 2011*

John reported that 2010 was a milestone year with the FVHRS preparing to celebrate its 10th., anniversary as a registered society. The proposed relocation to Cloverdale is to be the highlight activity planned for the fall of 2011. The city of Surrey approved funding in January 2011 to enable the FVHRS to relocate to a new facility to be constructed in Cloverdale and to become operational as a demonstration project between Cloverdale and Sullivan in 2012.

To set the scene John outlined the history of the Fraser Valley interurban line from inception of construction in 1907 to the closing down of passenger services in 1950. John outlined the history and formation of the FVHRS in 2001 after several years of work by the city of Surrey Heritage Advisory Commission that commenced in 1996 as a special project to investigate the feasibility of reactivating the historic line again for passenger service. John related how the construction of the Fraser Valley line by BC Electric led to electricity being made available to the population of the valley including most importantly the agriculture and dairy farms.

John commented that the BC Electric interurban service connected down town Vancouver with Chilliwack with 4 trips a day and this serviced a population of 87,000. The Fraser valley line took 3 years to construct and is 63.8 miles in length. The construction of the line was an enormous achievement as there was little in the way of mechanical equipment available to handle the heavy work in those days.

John recalled that at the end of service only 7 interurbans of the fleet were saved from destruction. BCER 1225 closed the service in the lower mainland and spent the years following in Perris California at the Orange Empire Railway Museum before returning to BC and the FVHRS Sullivan facility in August 2005. Over 16,500 hours of volunteer time has been donated so far to totally rehabilitate 1225 to full operating condition. With our sister society SIRS, BCER 1304 the only surviving Chilliwack car was repatriated from the Oregon Electric Railway Historical Society in Oregon to BC and the FVHRS Sullivan car barn in 2009. Rehabilitation on 1304 has not commenced fully yet other than cosmetically.

John outlined the work that has been accomplished to construct the Sullivan car barn, workshop, replica Sullivan station and installation of the speeder track around the Sullivan compound.

The move to Cloverdale planned for the fall of 2011 will be to a new car barn twice the size of the Sullivan structure and complete with concrete floors, and a sprinkler system and most importantly indoor plumbing. The city of Surrey awarded \$2.9 million to the Cloverdale project and has provide sufficient funds to not only complete the construction of the new car barn but also to connect the barn to the SRY spur line in Cloverdale and to make the project operational in 2012. The 2012 operational phase will be a 'demonstration project' running between Cloverdale and Sullivan as 'a proof of concept'. Over time it is expected to increase the route west to Newton and finally to Scott Road adjacent to the Scot Road Skytrain station.

John thanked everyone who has provided funds, goods in kind and most importantly 'so many hours of skilled volunteer time to bring the dream of once again riding the rails with BCER 1225.

## **5.2 Treasurers Report:**

**Secretary Allen Aubert provided his report the treasurer Stephen Plant was not available**

- Copies of the annual financial statements were circulated to all members present.
- The FVHRS received \$32,236 income from memberships, the one passenger at a time campaign, donations and souvenirs compared with \$42,098 in 2010 (Feb 28<sup>th</sup>., 2010 is the year end)
- The FVHRS expenses were \$22,747 compared with \$39,510 for 2010. Expenses were reduced to reflect the general reduction in donations.
- The bottom line resulted in \$9,489 of revenue over expenses
- Assets as of Feb 28 2011= \$833,080 excluding the value of volunteer effort.
- One liability exists relating to \$13,856 held in trust toward restoration of street car 30 (Cloverbelle) by a new Cloverdale heritage society currently being formed.

## **5.3 Fundraising Chair's report**

• **Allen Aubert the Fundraising Chair** noted that fundraising had been focused upon the \$1.5 million 'one passenger at a time' campaign with a major funding request being made to the City of Surrey. The city of Surrey on January 10<sup>th</sup> approved \$2.9 million toward the heritage rail project and as such brought the campaign to a successful close. The funding included the city purchase of property in Cloverdale for construction of a new heritage rail car barn, funds to connect to the existing rail line spur in Cloverdale, the

acquisition of a power source to run BCER1225 as well as funds necessary to cover liability operating insurance for one year. The city funding completed the objectives set out in the one passenger at a time campaign and took the project even further.

- The city have requested that the FVHRS now work toward raising additional funds to construct the replica Cloverdale station, acquisition of a replica self propelled BCER baggage car and to rehabilitate BCER 1304.

- A new \$1.5million fundraising campaign themed ‘Cloverdale to Sullivan’ has been launched to accomplish this next phase of activity. For each \$50 donated the FVHRS will issue a tax receipt and a complimentary return ticket to ride BCER 1225 between Cloverdale and Sullivan once during 2012 or 2013.

- The Surrey Heritage Advisory Commission (SHAC) provided a grant of \$10,000 toward the Fraser Valley rail trip from New Westminster to Chilliwack to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Fraser valley line. That trip had to be cancelled at the last minute due to technical difficulties. The trip will be rescheduled as soon as possible. The FVHRS partner to the trip SRY, remain committed to achieving this.

- The FVHRS membership donated \$17,105.00

#### **Membership Chair’s Report:**

##### **Allen Aubert the Membership Chair:**

How did we do in 2010?

We set a membership goal at last year’s AGM to reach 350 by to day..... we have reached 308... we gained 11 new members during 2010.

Membership retention continues at around 90% that by any measure is excellent and demonstrates a commitment by our members to see the heritage rail project become operational.

Last year was financially challenging for us all...yet not only did our members renew and new members join but most provided a donation too....Allen was kept very busy writing tax receipts.

#### **5.4. Receipt of Reports**

Moved David Sparks 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Webster that committee reports be accepted: Carried

#### **6 Other Business**

##### **Relocation to Cloverdale**

John reported that the FVHRS have been working closely with the city engineering department for the past few months to complete the design and to process the Development and Building permits for the new Cloverdale car barn. The city staff has been very helpful and has fast tracked the permit process.

Construction on the new FVHRS car barn is scheduled to commence during July 2011 and be complete and ready for the FVHRS to relocate from Sullivan during October.

Work has already commenced with site clearing of the Cloverdale site.

The city is processing separately with the requirements to acquire the access to the adjacent rail spur and to provide a new siding to connect the new car barn.

#### **7. Adjournment of Business**

Moved by Ron Powers 2<sup>nd</sup> by Henry Ewert that the 2011 AGM be adjourned.  
Carried

#### **8. FVHRS 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake.**

John invited all in attendance to gather around and receive a slice of the 10<sup>th</sup> FVHRS anniversary cake. Frank Horne and Vic Sharman FVHRS members and two BCER ‘vintage’ motormen cut the first slice of the cake.

**8. Keynote speaker:**

Robert Ashton, Vice chair FVHRS

Robert, provided a wonderful a slide show complete with music and images going back to when BCER 1225 was in operation on a regular basis in the Vancouver area and subsequently where it spent many years in Perris California before being repatriated back to British Columbia and to the FVHRS. Bob's pictures gave a very complete sense of the history of BCER 1225 and included many images of the 5- year FVHRS rehabilitation process to the present time. Bob's slide show was much appreciated by all and brought back many memories.

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