

BSRA Business Meeting Minutes April 6, 2024

The April 6, 2024, Business Meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by President Bradley Clarke via Zoom Video Conference.

President's Remarks

- Welcome, all, to the April meeting of the BSRA. Mike Prescott is running the Zoom operation tonight, an intricate and challenging task. On behalf of us all, thank you, Mike.

- Tonight's entertainment is Donald Nevin's Erie Lackawanna Commuter Experience. Unfortunately, Donald has been hospitalized, and cannot be with us tonight. Eric Oszustowicz, who is quite familiar with the Erie Lackawanna commuter operation has kindly agreed to narrate the show. I am sure that we all wish Donald all the best in recovering and thank Eric for stepping in to help.

2. Announcements and business meeting.

- With tonight's meeting announcement, we sent the September-October and November-December 2023 editions of RollSign, almost completely catching up on back issues. The annual MBTA equipment inventory is next, covering the January-February 2024 period.

1. **Treasurer's Report** – Charlie Bahne read the following report:

Boston Street Railway Association, Inc.
Summary Treasurer's Report, March 2024
(detailed report is available for download)

General Fund

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Income | \$500.35 |
| Expenses | \$4,889.10 |
| Cash on hand 3/31/2024 | \$27,474.04 |

5706 Fund

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Income | \$44.82 |
| Expenses | \$0.00 |
| Cash on hand 3/31/2024 | \$70,722.75 |
| Combined cash on hand 3/31/2024 | \$98,196.79 |

- Second renewal notices were mailed a week ago, and replies are already coming in. *If you got one of these notices, please renew promptly, either online or by mailing us a check.*

- There was minimal income during the month, primarily because large parts of our website have been offline.

- Expenses for the month include printing and mailing two issues of *RollSign*.

- Since 1999, we've raised a total of \$517,951.03 for the 5706 Fund.

2. **RollSign Director Report** – Mike Prescott read the following report:

- With the meeting notice, we attached PDF files of the September-October and November-December 2023 editions of RollSign. The November-December issue has a special article on the end of dual-mode service on the Silver Line and the final, final end of trackless trolley service on the Boston system.

- At this point, we are nearly back to our normal schedule.

- Ron Clough, our publications manager, mentions that we are always looking for retail outlets for RollSign, so if you can identify any please let us know.

4. **Publication Director Report** – Mike Prescott read the following report:

- We are rebuilding our website with the intention of using another vendor to host it. This is about all I can say for now, most of my time having been devoted to catching up on back issues of RollSign.

6. **5706 Report** – Brad Clarke read the following report:

The 5706 Fund now totals \$70,722. A lot of work has occurred, and our cash burn has been rapid. We are working on a fundraiser to be mailed soon to boost the 5706 Fund. We will also be asking for support to help replenish the General Fund.

We have now raised \$517,951 for our Type 5.

We have just been awarded a \$4000 grant by the Mass Bay RRE for the continuing restoration of 5706. This organization has supported our project for many years, and we are very grateful for their generous help.

8. **Applicants for Intermediate and Regular membership** – Tadd Anderson read the following name of the new member to be voted on:

BRADLEY PETERSON JR., PORTER CORNERS, NY
New Regular Member

Old/New Business - None

11. **Current Events** – Jonathan Belcher read the following report:

Orange Line: CRRC fleet: 104 active cars in service, 1506/1507 accepted since last meeting, and 1502/1503, 1508/1509, 1510/1511, and 1512/1513 are in testing. 38 remain to be delivered. Scrapping of #12 Hawker fleet has resumed after one year pause. 48 cars were in storage on March 1, 4 per week are now being removed by Costello Dismantling, down to 36 on property to be removed.

Green Line: Car 3819 derailed 03/09/24, the morning after service resumed after planned shut-down. No problems found with switch; car is still impounded while investigation continues.

Red Line: Car 01649 derailed 03/23/24 at Broadway crossover during planned diversion. The problem appeared to be with the switch, but car is still impounded for investigation. Total CRRC fleet is 14 (1900-1913) accepted out of 252 ordered. 1914/1915 and 1918/1919 delivered and are in testing. 234 remain to deliver. MBTA has started using the new car acceptance facility built along the Haul Road in South Boston. MBTA reached new contract “reset” agreement with CRRC. \$148 million was added to the contract to cover tariff expenses and higher supply costs. A new delivery schedule calls for final Orange Line cars to be delivered in 2025 and Red Line in 2027. More wiring work will be completed on Red Line cars in China before shipment to speed up deliveries from present four per month to eight per month.

Blue Line: The Blue Line is the next line with planned shutdowns planned, April 9-11: Evening shut-downs from Bowdoin to Orient Heights. A full shut-down will take place between Maverick to Wonderland April 17-19 and Airport to Wonderland April 20-28.

Commuter Rail: Locomotive rebuilding: 26 units completed, 11 are at Erie. 1029 and 1033 returned, in testing. 68 of the 83 new Rotems on order have been delivered, 52 accepted for service, 16 in testing, 15 remain to deliver. The active 1600 fleet is now 6 cab cars and 19 former cab cars (25 total). The MBTA filed legal notice that Keolis has offered an unsolicited innovation proposal to acquire a fleet of Battery Electric MUs by 2027 for use on the Fairmount Line. Other possible bidders will have a chance to respond before MBTA Board votes to enter into an agreement. Full details not revealed yet, however Stadler has existing contracts with CalTrain and Metra to build BEMUs, and Keolis’s proposal may be to buy options from one of those contracts to accelerate the delivery of up to 7 consists. April 20-28, busses will replace service on Haverhill Line between Reading and Orak Grove and Eastern Route between Swampscott and North Station for signal work at Reading and Everett junctions.

Bus: -Fifteen 1400 series busses of 60 total are now at Midwest Bus for overhaul. 9 busses have returned. Deliveries and acceptance of 160 3200-3359 series buses from New Flyer continue, 100 are in service at Albany, 59 are active at Lynn, the last one, 3359, in testing. The last 2006-built 0600-0754 series bus (0610) was removed from service on 03/04/24, 7 are in storage, 3 are work busses, and 3 were transferred to VTA last year, the remaining 142 have been scrapped. This weekend, wire is to be removed at Silver Line Way

11. **Entertainment** – Lucius Chiaraviglio summarized the upcoming entertainment to December 2024.

12. **Officers Present:** Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairs present included Bradley Clarke, Tom Athearn, Charlie Bahne, Tadd Anderson, Jonathan Belcher, Clark Frazier, James Gately and Lucius Chiaraviglio.

13. **Adjournment** - A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the Business Meeting and it passed. The Business Meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Tadd Anderson
Secretary, Boston Street Railway Association
4/13/2024