



TRANSFER

Vol. 17 No.3 SHELburne Falls Trolley Museum Newsletter FALL 2008

DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE HISTORY OF THE SHELburne Falls & Colrain Street Railway

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Work on improving appearances and safety at the trolley Museum is continuing. John Pelletier has painted both sides of the caboose. Normally, at Moonlight Magic, the unpainted side of the caboose is presented to the visiting public, this year they got to see the caboose and it's fresh, new paint. John has also continued work on the metal work for the roof walks and painting the interior and installing cabinet hardware.

Peter Johnson and John Greene have overseen the work of community service workers from the Franklin County Sheriff's Department. This crew was kept busy during the summer string trimming and mowing. When the mowing season ended, they started clearing brush along our North driveway, making our piles of rail and ties more readily accessible and improving the general appearance of the property.

Dave Dye has completed putting skirt boards on the freight house, which will make it less likely that vagrants or vandals will cause trouble there. He has begun the same work on the Agway building.

Progress on building restoration and track work was held up by repairs needed to the two trucks that we use to do this work. Thanks to Dave Dye, Jerry Besser and Dave Goff for tackling those projects.

Our highest profile tenant, The Children's Museum, has closed up shop and is no longer paying rent for the newly renovated studio space. We have been unable to find a replacement tenant, even though we have reduced the rent to \$400 per month. This has put a bit of a dent in our budget, as we still need to make monthly payments on the loan we took out to do the renovation. We didn't project full occupancy in our budgeting, but we didn't expect that this space would remain empty this long. If you are able to make a year-end contribution or increase your membership level at this time, we would greatly appreciate it.

Planning and design for the car barn is continuing. The car barn fund is now over \$3300, but we will need much more to be able to make substantial progress on a new car barn to protect our car number 10, and any other cars to join her. I know that many people are facing financial difficulty. However this might be a good time to build a new building as material costs should be coming down. Please consider a contribution to the Car Barn Fund when you renew your membership.

Sam Bartlett

WEB PRESENCE

In the trolley days there was a web of trolley tracks connecting communities all over the country. To get people to come ride their trolley lines, trolley companies made glossy brochures extolling the virtues of the scenic, cultural and entertainment attractions along their route. These were expensive to publish and distribute but every new passenger was another nickel earned. Today, a different web connects homes and businesses all over the world. The Shelburne Falls Trolley Museum has a presence on the web at www.SFTM.ORG. I hope that you have seen it already. One way you can help to improve our presence on the web without even leaving the comfort of your chair is to visit sites such as www.daytripperwestma.gather.com and www.attractions.uptake.com where you can write a review about the Trolley Museum. Then others who are searching for similar activities will more easily find our Museum. Next time you're waiting for something else to download, find one of these sites and tell people what you think about our Trolley Museum.

Be sure to add a link to www.SFTM.org if appropriate. Or do a Google search for things related to our Trolley Museum (family fun activities New England) and look for other sites like these. The more people that write reviews about the Trolley Museum (hopefully positive ones), the more likely other people who haven't heard about our Museum will be to find us on the web and come and visit us. Every new family who finds us on the web and comes to visit us will earn us about \$20 in revenue on average. Anyone want to start a SFTM Facebook site?

AN INTERESTING PROPOSITION

Fitchburg and Leominster Street Railway trolley car No. 60. Recently, the owners of a camp in central Massachusetts contacted us to see if we wanted to accept a donation of a trolley body. This car is FLSR No. 60, a two-truck 38-foot wooden 1902 Wason closed trolley car. Several of us went to inspect it this fall and found a car that is in remarkably good shape for having sat as a lakeside camp for over 70 years. The car is partly enclosed by a building and has a roof over it, which has preserved it from much of the deterioration that our car No. 10 received while sitting out in an open field. It has received some modifications which have damaged it somewhat and both vestibules have been cut off. The running gear, electrical gear and seats were all removed when the car was moved to this camp in the 1930s.

(Cont'd on Page 4)