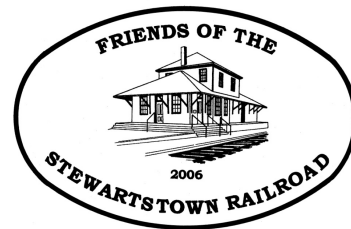




Seven-Point-Four

the newsletter of the Friends of the Stewartstown Railroad, Inc. A Pennsylvania non-stock not-for-profit organization, tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



October–December

Fourth Quarter 2017

October–December

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Dave Watson

2017 has been a wonderful year, and we have accomplished many great things. We could not do it without our members, volunteers, board members, donations, and the support of the railroad. The Santa trains went off without a hitch, and many fond memories were made with Santa. We encourage you to consider volunteering in 2018. Thank you, happy holidays, and have a happy new year!!

Friends' Open-air Excursion Car Update

A core group consisting of John von Briesen, Russ Vollmer, Dave Baur, and Larry Morgan have been working weekly on the Friends' open-air excursion car. The frame of the car has been built and the floor boards have been installed. Miles Weaver is creating bracing supports from steel to add additional strength to the structure. Work will continue through the winter (weather permitting). Donations are greatly appreciated to help finish off the car. We anticipate that it will be ready for the 2018 excursion season.

Coach 1341 Update

The Friends organization received a \$1,000 grant from the Tom E. Dailey Foundation to fund a portion of the external restoration of former Reading Company Coach #1341. We will be using the funds to purchase replacement sheet metal for repairs to the roof edge running along the sides of the coach. The roof of coach 1341 has been in bad shape for many years and open to the elements. Water caused a great deal of damage to the inside of the coach over a period of many years. Temporary repairs were made in 2014 with body filler and duct tape to keep out water. This grant will more than cover the steel and possibly allow us to hire a contractor to facilitate the repairs. We thank the Tom E. Dailey Foundation for their kindness and generosity toward the external restoration of coach 1341. The Friends' organization also contributed \$300 dollars toward the lettering of coach 1341. It says, "Stewartstown Railroad Co." in big letters on the letterboard.

Coach 1158 Update

We are assisting the railroad with former Reading Company coach #1158. Friends' members are creating 14 new windows to replace ones that are missing, broken, or unsafe to use.



One of the Stewartstown Railroad's 2017 Santa trains passing the Bailey Springs neighborhood in a snow storm.

Photo by Phillip Shoop.

Bylaws Update Coming Soon

It has been over 11 years since the Friends' organization created its bylaws. Due to changes within the organization, modifications have become necessary to the bylaws. A committee was formed to make recommendations to the board. We are currently waiting to hear from the IRS in order to ensure that the proposed changes are acceptable for non-profit organizations. Since the changes are very minor, we do not expect any issues.

Station Rehabilitation Updates

The final four upstairs windows are being repaired. The windows to the former board room have been finished and replaced. In the spring, rotted boards around the upstairs windows will be replaced. We are currently working on grant applications for side walk and roof replacement.



Close-up view of the new lettering on coach #1341.

Dedicated to Preserving the Stewartstown Railroad—An Authentic American Antiquity

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: stewartstownfriends.org

Seven-Point-Four

The newsletter of the Friends of the Stewartstown Railroad, Inc.

Fourth Quarter 2017 / Page 2



Friends of the
Stewartstown Railroad, Inc.
P.O. Box 456
Stewartstown, Pennsylvania
17363-0456
(717) 654-7530

On the web at www.stewartstownfriends.org

David Watson, President / Flatcar Project Manager
William Larduskey, Vice President
Wayne Norman, Secretary

Raymond E. Reter, Treasurer / Newsletter Editor
David Diano, Director-at-Large

Madeline McCabe, Director-at-Large / Newsletter Fulfillment

M. Larry Morgan, Director-at-Large

Lauren Stahl, Director-at-Large

Owen Stedding, Director-at-Large

David Baur, Senior Museum Operations Docent

Kay Hoshour, Corporate Registered Agent

Articles and news items to be considered for publication in 7.4 need to be submitted by the first of each month to allow time for editing, fact-checking, and possible consolidation with other submitted items to create comprehensive articles. When submitting photographs, please submit as .jpg files and identify the photographer who took the photograph.

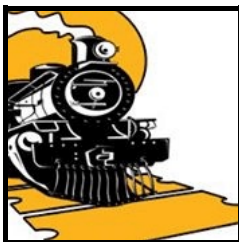
The Friends of the Stewartstown Railroad outreach program has supported the following organizations through membership in and/or by donations to:

Mason-Dixon Public Library
New Freedom Heritage, Inc.
Preservation Pennsylvania, Inc.
Stewartstown Fall Fest
Stewartstown Historical Society, Inc.
Stewartstown Senior Center
Stewartstown Summer Theatre
The York County Convention and Visitors Bureau
York County History Center

REMEMBER:

You can purchase train ride tickets in advance with your credit card through the *WhistleTix* service on the railroad company's website:

www.stewartstownrailroadco.com



MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

We thank all who have already renewed their membership for 2018. If you have not yet renewed your membership in the Friends organization, please remember that your membership expired at the end of December 2017. We hope you will consider remaining a member of the Friends for 2018 — and beyond! *Thanks!*

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

It's that time of the year again! We're looking for candidates who would like to serve as managers of the Friends organization. If you are interested in serving, please let us know via e-mail or postal mail (see contact info in the box on the left).

The officers and directors handle the administrative side of the organization, including fund raising, making sure all federal and state requirements are met, filing various reports throughout the year, acting as "ambassadors" to the general public by attending meetings and events to promote the Friends organization and its activities and accomplishments.

If you are interested in serving and have the time to devote to these responsibilities, we're looking forward to hearing from **YOU!** Please let us know of your interest by **March 18, 2018**. *Thanks!*



Looking ahead through Mighty Mo's cab towards the current end of the Stewartstown Railroad's class 1 track on a dry winter day.

Photo by Larry Morgan.

Dedicated to Preserving the Stewartstown Railroad—An Authentic American Antiquity

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: stewartstownfriends.org

Seven-Point-Four

The newsletter of the Friends of the Stewartstown Railroad, Inc.

Fourth Quarter 2017 / Page 3

STEWARTSTOWN RAILROAD GETS A SCARIFIER

A Fairmont W-87E Scarifier recently showed up on the Stewartstown tracks, much to the relief of our volunteers' wrists, elbows, shoulders and backs. A scarifier has a series of strong steel teeth attached in rings around a rotary boom that can be raised and lowered. When the boom, with the scarifier spinning, is lowered to where a tie should go, it scrapes out dirt, roots, ballast, and the like, making it easy to prepare a crib for a new tie — and it does so in just a couple of minutes! The scarifier will be used in preparing cribs for tie replacement up and down the line much faster, and make the job of tie replacement easier for our volunteers.

This scarifier is a Fairmont model W-87E, probably built sometime around 1980. It was last owned by the Union Pacific Railroad, and purchased at auction and transported to Stewartstown by Mike Ruane, a member of the Friends of the Stewartstown Railroad, and a volunteer on the railroad. It measures 10'6" wide, 12'9" long, and weighs 10,550 lbs. and is powered by a Detroit Diesel engine.

Most of the ties on the Stewartstown's 7.4 miles of track were 6x8 ties, meaning that they were six inches high, and eight inches wide, and a standard length of eight feet, six inches. Today's replacement ties are 7x9 ties, so

they are an inch higher and wider. Not much of a difference . . . or is it? Under our Stewartstown track, that additional inch is a layer of fitted fieldstone, the roadbed of the railroad. As any member of the track crew will tell you, getting that extra inch (and a little more if you leave space for ballast under, and a tie plate above) is hard, painful work requiring picks, shovels, and lots of sweat. This piece of track equipment will really help the railroad's volunteers replace more ties faster, so be sure to donate to the Friends trackwork fund!

We hope to see you out on the line, helping us make the Stewartstown Railroad better than ever!



The scarifier arrives in the Stewartstown Railroad's yard.'

Photo by Dave Williamson

AUTUMN AND WINTER ACTIVITIES ON THE RAILROAD



Santa and Mrs. Claus prepare to board the Stewartstown Railroad's Santa train.



Junior Conductor Thomas Stahl onboard Stewartstown Railroad's coach #1341 ready to perform his duties. Volunteers from the Friends decorated the coach for the season.

Dedicated to Preserving the Stewartstown Railroad—An Authentic American Antiquity

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: stewartstownfriends.org

Seven-Point-Four

The newsletter of the Friends of the Stewartstown Railroad, Inc.

Fourth Quarter 2017 / Page 4

AUTUMN AND WINTER ACTIVITIES ON THE RAILROAD—Continued



In this photograph the Friends flatcar is fully-framed for its conversion to an open-air observation car.



By late December the installation of the flatcar deck had begun and was completed in early January 2018.



The windows for the second floor of the station in Stewartstown have been repaired/rebuilt and reglazed and are ready for installation on the station.

Photo by John Watson.

DONATIONS

As this issue of 7.4 goes to press the federal government is beginning to implement new income tax rules. These rules will go into effect during 2018 and impact the income tax return you will file in **April 2019**. We do not expect these changes to affect the deductibility of your donations to the Friends organization. We recommend that you, or your tax advisor, keep abreast of these changes as they are disclosed in the news media.

THANK YOU!

The fall and early winter seasons were very busy on the Stewartstown Railroad. Our volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. There were many opportunities for our volunteers to participate in the activities they enjoy. Wood-working, running trains, constructing the Friends' open-air observation car, serving the railroad's customers in the station and on the cars, a wide-ranging variety for everyone's talents. Please consider helping out on workdays and excursion days, too. We appreciate your help. *Thank You!*

Dedicated to Preserving the Stewartstown Railroad—An Authentic American Antiquity

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: stewartstownfriends.org