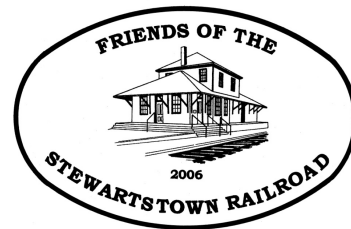




Seven-Point-Four

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 2019

October–December

WEATHER was mostly calm during the fourth quarter allowing for a robust “Santa Train” schedule and allowing for continuing trackwork and equipment maintenance. In this issue of 7.4 we’ll highlight the accomplishments of our volunteers as 2019 came to an end. All made possible by *your* continuing support. *Thank you!*

—Ray Reter

MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

We thank all who have already renewed their membership for 2020. If you have not yet renewed your membership in the Friends organization, please remember that your membership expired at the end of December 2019. We hope you will consider remaining a member of the Friends for 2020 — 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 page 2).

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 23, 2020**. *Thanks!*

PROPOSED CHANGES TO BYLAWS

We call your attention to the special membership meeting notice and ballot enclosed with this newsletter. Please be sure to return your ballot if you are not able to attend this meeting in person. (Note that this *is not* the regular annual membership meeting.)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR

We are currently looking for an individual to go out in the community and spread word of the Friends’ preservation and restoration efforts of the Stewartstown Railroad. Duties



Santa visits with the passengers on one of the Stewartstown Railroad’s “Santa” trains in December 2019.

Photo by William Larduskey.

include distributing flyers, restocking membership forms, setting up at train shows, attending and representing the Friends at various meetings around the county and in the Mason-Dixon region, and other promotional duties. Previous experience with PR is helpful, but not necessary. Please let us know if you are interested in this new opportunity.

FRIENDS’ GIFT SHOP WELCOMES NEW MANAGER

The Friends has named a new gift shop manager. Starting January 1 we welcome Mrs. Donna Kuhlman as the Friends gift shop manager. With increased demand for new products, the need for additional salesclerks, and improved displays, Donna was appointed to take charge.

We do need more volunteers to help staff the gift shop! Unfortunately, during the Christmas season the gift shop was closed on a few days due to a lack of salesclerks. Though several volunteers stepped-up when we asked for help (and we sincerely thank those individuals for helping to keep the gift shop open) we still had some days without sales help and could not open the shop. With an increase in train operating days anticipated in 2020, more sales clerks are needed. The gift shop is one of the Friends fund raising activities and help is needed on excursion days. Please let us know if you are interested in training and signing-up to cover some shifts. *Thank you!*

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 2019 / Page 2



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

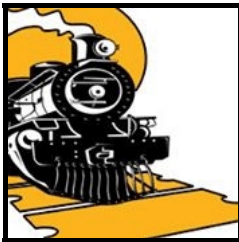
On the web at www.stewartstownfriends.org

David Watson, *President*
Michael Ruane, *Vice President*
Thomas Stahl, *Secretary*
Raymond E. Reter, *Treasurer / Newsletter Editor*
James Kuhlman, *Director-at-Large*
Madeline McCabe, *Director-at-Large / Newsletter Fulfillment*
M. Larry Morgan, *Director-at-Large*
Matthew Mundis, *Director-at-Large*
Owen Stedding, *Director-at-Large*
Kay Hoshour, *Corporate Registered Agent*
Donna Kuhlman, *Gift Shop Manager*

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:

Explore York
(formerly York County Convention and Visitors Bureau)
Farm & Natural Lands Trust of York County
New Freedom Heritage, Inc.
Preservation Pennsylvania, Inc.
Stewartstown Fall Fest
Stewartstown Historical Society, Inc.
Stewartstown Area Senior Center
Stewartstown Summer Theatre
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

COACH 1158 PROGRESS REPORT

A crew consisting of Isaac, Jim, and Dave began removing rusting metal from the end of coach 1158. These former Reading Company coaches tend to rust-out at the bottom of the vestibule on both ends of the car. To fix this, we must remove the lower three to four inches and weld in a new piece. Coach 1341 had the same work done to it this past summer 2019.

It was further discovered that pieces of the steps were rusted-out. We are working on fabricating new pieces of diamond plate that line up with the existing platform. In addition, we are working on repairing moderate steel damage between each window. Jim and Isaac carefully cut out holes around a handful of windows so we could view the steel underframe for damage. We found that the tops and bottoms were ok, the real damage was in the center. To fix this, we will reinforce the steel from behind.

We are also working to determine how best to repair the missing window track, replacing steel between windows and sill plate. John Watson is currently working on preparing the first set of new windows to install once the window edge steel repairs are made.



December 2019: The Stewartstown Railroad station appears to rest while the Santa train is out on the line. Note the Christmas decorations in the front yard, where the huge maple tree once stood. The approximately 106-year-old tree needed to be removed as it had become a safety hazard due to its shedding of some sizable limbs with every passing storm. *Photo by Miles Weaver.*

Mark your calendars:

The Easter Bunny will visit the Stewartstown Railroad in 2020 on

Saturday April 4, Sunday April 5,
Friday April 10, and Saturday April 11.

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 2019 / Page 3

IRON BRIDGE RESTORATION AND WESTWARD EXPANSION OF CLASS 1 TRACK IN TIME FOR SANTA TRAINS

Thanks to the generosity of Friends' members, donors, volunteers, and supporters, the Friends organization's iron bridge fundraiser generated more money than expected to fund the Stewartstown Railroad's iron bridge repairs. These funds enabled the Friends to purchase more than 200 ties, enough to complete the iron bridge repairs and continue trackwork westward beyond the iron bridge!

By the end of December 2019, the class 1 track had been extended to just west of the Iron Bridge Road grade crossing. As a result, riders on the 2019 Santa trains received a special treat—a somewhat longer ride! The length of class 1 track is now 1.75 miles each direction making a 45-minutes round trip.

TIES, TIES, TIES!

The year 2019 was a year of record achievements by the Stewartstown track crew. The track crew installed more than 500 ties, which is the most on record for a single year in the past 25 years.

The goal for 2020 is to install 750 ties—potentially reaching bridge #5, the bridge over Ridge Meadow Road. The railroad's first target for 2020 is to have "class 1" track reach the "picnic area" just east of the Five Forks Road grade crossing. This will require about 250 ties. An additional 500 ties would get the railroad to the Five Forks Road grade crossing. Looking beyond 2020, another 250 ties would extend the "class 1" track to bridge #5. As you can see, there is a need for a lot of ties!

If you'd like to help, there are many ways you can. Volunteers are needed on track workdays to install ties, drive spikes, and tamp the track to make it level. Monetary donations are needed and appreciated, too! Ties cost \$30-60 each. This is largely driven by time of year, volunteer labor, tie availability, spikes, and tie plates (a mile of rehabilitated track on the Stewartstown Railroad requires about 1,000 ties). Your help is appreciated! *Thank you!*

Right: Just a few feet west of the iron bridge is another substantial bridge, but not as visible as the iron bridge: the Ebaugh Creek bridge. This stone structure carries the Stewartstown Railroad track over the creek, but is only visible from the busy Bridgeview Road (PA Route 851) during the fall and winter months as it is hidden by lush foliage during the warmer months.

Photo by Miles Weaver.



A work train in the distance along the Stewartstown Railroad's right-of-way near the iron bridge.
Photo by William Larduskey.



The iron bridge looking south along Valley Road after restoration work was completed. To the left you can see the temporary sediment control barriers installed by a contractor who is building a housing development on a former farm.

Photo by Miles Weaver.



Seven-Point-Four

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

Fourth Quarter 2019 / Page 4

Workin' on the Railroad! A Photo Album.

The fourth quarter of 2019 was a busy time on the railroad. In the spirit of "a picture is worth a thousand words" here's a sample of our volunteer's efforts as 2019 came to a close.



Crosstie replacement underway near the iron bridge. *Photo by William Larduskey.*



Trackwork begins west of the Iron Bridge Road grade crossing. *Photo by John Nolan.*



The railroad's former Union Pacific caboose received some attention, too. Some of the "fogged" windows received new clear glass. *Photo by Miles Weaver.*



Trackwork underway using mechanical equipment. *Photo by William Larduskey.*



Moving the "End of Class 1 Track" sign to the west of the Iron Bridge Road grade crossing, indicating the extension of the "big train" track. *Photo by Jim Hogan.*



Windows in the railroad's blue caboose received new clear glass. *Photo by Miles Weaver.*



Track crew working on the track just west of the iron bridge. *Photo by William Larduskey.*



The Friends locomotive, former Ma & Pa #84, rests in its storage location in York, PA. *Photo by Miles Weaver.*



Seeing a bit more clearly now through one of the replaced windows in the blue caboose! *Photo by Miles Weaver.*

Dedicated to Preserving the Stewartstown Railroad—An Authentic American Antiquity

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: stewartstownfriends.org