

# The Railyard Dispatch

Volume 15, Issue 2

The Newsletter of the Danbury Railway Museum

March 2016

## Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty Visits the Danbury Railway Museum



*Pictured from left to right: Secretary Steve Gould; VP Stan Madyda; U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Esty; St. Rep. Bob Godfrey; President Wade Roese and Bill Wagner. Photo courtesy of U.S. Rep. Esty's office.*

Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty (CT, 5<sup>th</sup> District) visited the Danbury Railway Museum on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016, along with Jody Trestman, a member of her staff, and State Rep. Bob Godfrey who represents Danbury and is the Deputy Speaker in the Connecticut State Assembly. They were met by President Wade Roese and Vice President Stan Madyda.

The visit included a ride in the railyard on ex-New Haven Railroad Rail Diesel Car #32 with the first stop being the turntable. Engineer Jim Teer and conductor Dave Fuller were the crew for the trip. Similar to what is done at our Danbury Railway Days event, the group was given a half-rotation ride on the turntable and stopped at the plywood "red carpet" leading to the rear platform of the *Tonawanda Valley*. The Congresswoman and her party received a platform-to-vestibule tour of the 1928 observation/lounge/sleeping car by President Roese and others. She was quite impressed with the restoration work that was done.

It was back on the RDC for a return to the boarding point and, under the supervision of engineer Jim Teer, Ms. Esty took the controls for a short distance. The group had planned a forty-five minute visit, but Rep. Esty wanted to check out the

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## Safety, Crew Exams, Car Host and Tour Guide Training Scheduled

The following 2016 DRM qualifying exams and training sessions are offered to our volunteers, who must be DRM members paid in full, as follows:

### **Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Safety Exam: 10:00 AM. For ALL volunteers working in the yard.**

**Crew Exam: Immediately after safety exam. For ALL current and potential crew members.**

### **Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Car Host/Tour Guide Training: 10:00 AM. For ALL current and potential car hosts and tour guides which must be completed before working on DRM trains or giving tours. Will cover duties of each position.**

These exams and training sessions are given annually to qualify for each position. Safety of our guests is "Job One" and the exams or training sessions reinforce the things we need to keep in mind. Please plan to attend them. They will be conducted at the Museum.

Questions? For Safety Exam, contact John O'Hern, Safety Officer. For Crew Exam, contact Jeff Van Wagenen, Superintendent. For Car Host and Tour Guide Training, contact Steve Gould.



*Photo courtesy of Carolyn Taylor*

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## New Members

We are delighted to welcome our new members this month. All members, as well as the general public, are welcome to attend the weekly meetings and free programs held Wednesdays, 7:30pm, at the Museum, 120 White Street, Danbury. We invite all members to become involved in Museum activities!

**Have you noticed?** The address label on each newsletter indicates the expiration date of your membership (recent renewals may not have new date on label). Life Members do not have an expiration date.

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Wayne T. Skairberg   | Darien, CT   |
| A. Curtis            | Brewster, NY |
| Evylyn Lynch Wickham | Yonkers, NY  |
| Michael C. Deems     | Bethel, CT   |
| Kristen Panichella   | Weston, CT   |
| Kathryn C. Metz      | Ossining, NY |
| John Antunovich      | Danbury, CT  |

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## Upcoming Events at the DRM

### 2016 Easter Bunny Express Trains!

March 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>

Before long, the Easter Bunny will be here! Ride a vintage train through the railyard and visit the Easter Bunny in the spring season-decorated RDC #32 and Bunny event car! Every child will receive a small gift from the Bunny!

**Reservations are strongly recommended!** You can reserve online at: [www.danburyrail.org](http://www.danburyrail.org), or you can call 1-203-778-8337. The \$10 admission for visitors ages 2 and up (under 2 years free) includes train ride, exhibits and displays in our beautifully decorated 1903 Station. There will also be a coloring station, play area, operating model layouts, temporary tattoos and more!

Trains will be running every **half-hour from 12:30pm - 3:30pm**. The Museum will be open Friday & Saturday 10am - 4:30pm and Sunday 12noon - 4:30pm.

If you are a member and would like to help during the event and/or for setup/takedown, please contact Sue at the Station on Fridays or Saturdays at: 1-203-778-8337.

A train ride to see the Easter Bunny is just the event to brighten up the holiday for families' toddlers and small ones! We look forward to this event and hope you support it by helping us get the word out by telling your family, friends, and putting up flyers. Don't forget to come out and enjoy the fun!

### May 8<sup>th</sup> - Mother's Day

2 Mothers ride free with child's paid admission.

## Ten Years Ago

By Stan Madyda, Vice President

The first quarter of 2006 was a busy time at the Museum. The Santa Trains were again very successful. Many involved with the Santa Trains began planning for the Easter Bunny Trains in April. The Museum hosted a First Night Event and even though it was a snowy night, many people came out to hear live music in the Station and ride the Budd car in the railyard. Visitors to the yard got to see privately owned and fully restored B&O Budd car #1060 and New Haven #162 which arrived in December.

2005 proved to be a very successful year in fundraising with donations totaling over \$36,000 going to specific projects and the general fund. Track work, the RPO car and the New Haven Forge were targeted for major fundraising for 2006.

The Library learned of a large collection of books, photos and railroad-related material that was for sale by a church group in Willimantic. The group received the collection from retired New Haven and Long Island Railroad engineer Harry Vallas. Upon inspection, it was decided that while there would be duplicate material, there would be enough new items to make the purchase worthwhile. A U-Haul truck was rented and more than 100 boxes were moved to the DRM (*pictured below*). Over time, the sale of duplicate material paid for the cost of the collection.

Most work in the yard had been suspended due to the weather except for the RPO restoration. Some fittings from the car were removed and worked on off-site and replaced, money was being raised for needed window replacements and canvas mail bags (no longer used by the Post Office) were being sourced.



Stan Madyda and Gerry Herrmann moving boxes into the library. Photo courtesy of Carolyn Taylor.

## Parking Deal on Weekends

Thanks to the generosity and cooperation of the staff at the Danbury Parking Authority, guests at the DRM will be able to get their admission ticket stamped at the Front Desk for a \$1 discount on parking at the Municipal garage across the street.

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# Danbury Railway Museum at the Annual Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show, By Sue Teer

Over the weekend of January 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016, the Danbury Railway Museum was out in force at the annual Amherst Railway Society railroad hobby show held at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in West Springfield, Massachusetts. This is the biggest railroad hobby show held in the northeast, which includes vendors and dealers from all over the country selling all sorts of railroad hobby equipment, photos, memorabilia and more. In addition, the show features several large model railroad layouts of all scales and numerous railway historical societies and museums.

There was a good turnout of visitors as the weather was better than the normal winter blast (attendance for the show was a little under 20,000 people!). The Museum had a new photo board display (now on display in our building) thanks to Patty & Don, and we spoke to hundreds of friendly people about our activities, rides and things to see when they visit. We gave out lots of Museum brochures as well as Easter Bunny event flyers. In addition to the gift shop, the library sold books and the modelers sold lots of donated merchandise. We also received a grant of \$1,000 for the EL caboose. Thanks for another great weekend, Amherst Railway Society, and a big thanks to our volunteers who set up, staffed and returned all goods to the Museum that weekend.



Photo courtesy of Alan Gruber

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## Words from Our President

Happy New Year, Holidays in general, and snow shoveling. We were again represented at the Big-E in West Springfield, where we received a grant toward continuing work on the newly acquired bay window caboose. As we reflect upon this past year, work progressed on many projects and was initiated on some new ones. We continue to learn the professionalism of Museum management through our participation in The Connecticut League of History Organizations sponsored StEPs training program. 2016 sees many of our original members continuing their volunteering and service, new member and long serving member volunteers participation and participant hours has grown, projects and project involvement has resulted in Museum growth and expansion. While many entertainment and attractions are down on funding, staffing, and support of the DRM has continued to attract new visitors and enhanced volunteer service. The Officers and Directors of the Danbury Railway Museum again wish to take this opportunity to thank and recognize those volunteers who have served and continued to serve or supported the Museum throughout this past year. Our apologies if we have missed acknowledging anyone:

Jose Alves  
Alan Baker  
Bruce Beard  
Rachel Beard  
Tim Bishop  
Mary Ann Boothe  
Harry Burke  
Dan Carleton  
Jerry DeJesus  
Kathy Fay  
Bob Gambling  
Franz Gerencir  
Al Gruber  
Gerry Herrmann  
John Ivansco  
Geoff Knees  
Mike LaGue  
Harry Leeds  
Dave Lowry  
Steve Mayerson  
Jim McGeorge  
Jesse Meeker  
J.R. Mitchell  
Tom Murray  
John O'Hern  
Andre Perez  
Bob Powell  
Dave Roberts  
Luis Roman  
Rob Sailer  
Jeff Scott\*  
Elyse Shapiro

Bob Andriola  
Roberta Ballard  
Marty Beard  
Gary Bentley  
Suze Blackman  
Doug Brede  
Joseph Caragin  
Justin Chapin  
Martha DePhillips  
Dan Foley  
Dan Gallo  
Steve Gould  
Jack Hawkins  
Josh Herrmann  
Ian Jenner  
Don Konen  
Joe Laporta  
Bernice Liba  
Mike Madyda  
Joe Mato  
Dave McKee  
Glenn Miller  
Jillian Murray  
Bill Nicholson  
Patty Osmer  
Louis Pisacano  
Jeremy Rice  
Terrie Roese  
Chuck Sager  
Marty Scatola  
Birte Selvara  
John Silbert

Bill Arm  
John Barton Jr.  
Phillip Beard  
Martha Bishop  
Bob Boothe  
Bill Brett  
Joe Carella  
Nancy Cuniff  
Al Emanuel  
Dave Fuller  
Paul Gassner  
Marty Grossman  
Fiona Herrmann  
Mike Herrmann  
Bob Kessler  
Dave Kopycinski  
Mike Laporta  
Carl Liba  
Stan Madyda  
Tom McCullough  
Pete McLachlan  
Dan Milone  
Lin Murray  
Tom O'Grady  
Shirley Peatfield  
Bob Pitcher  
Dave Rist  
Wade Roese  
Mike Salata  
Adam Schwartz  
Richard Shaboo  
Dave Simington

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# Amherst Railway Society Heritage Grant Awarded to the Danbury Railway Museum for EL Bay Window Caboose

The Amherst Railway Society, Inc. sponsors two annual grant programs intended to further the preservation, renovation, rebuilding and restoration of historical railroad items. The Founders' Award is a single \$10,000 grant to a project, selected by the Board of Directors. The Heritage Grant Program is for lesser amounts, usually below \$4,000, that are distributed to several organizations. The Heritage Grants are awards for smaller projects, or for the partial funding of larger projects that are receiving matching funds from other sources. The funds for these programs are generated by their annual railroad hobby show in January.

On Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016, the awards and grants were publicly announced at the Amherst Railway Society's Railroad Hobby Show in West Springfield, MA. Once again, the Danbury Railway Museum was the recipient of a heritage grant in the amount of \$1,000. This was awarded to the DRM specifically for the 1970 Erie-Lackawanna bay window caboose that the Museum has just recently taken possession of. President Wade Roese and Treasurer Patty Osmer were on hand to receive the check and certificate of this most generous award (*pictured below right with DRM grant committee chair, Secretary Steve Gould standing inbetween them*). On behalf of the Danbury Railway Museum, we would like to thank Amherst's board of directors and their president, Bruce MacCullagh (*pictured below left with Patty and Wade*), for the generous amount that they awarded us. The Museum feels indeed fortunate to have been awarded the money since revenues took a hit last year due to bad weather one of the two days of the show.

If you want to help financially with this project, we would gladly appreciate any amount of money that you can donate. **Please send checks to: Danbury Railway Museum, Attention: EL Bay Window Caboose, P.O. Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813**, and make checks out to: **Danbury Railway Museum with 'EL Bay Window Caboose'** in the memo. Thank you for your generosity! *Photos courtesy of Alan Gruber.*



## *Words from Our President, Continued from Page 4*

Art Slothower  
Terri Stramiello  
Jim Teer  
Jeff Van Wagenen  
Vic Westman  
Carol Wilson  
Jade, et.al.

Lovett Smith  
Frank Sullivan  
Sue Teer  
Bill Wagner  
Roger Whitcomb  
Kristina Maceira

Nancy Sniffen  
Carolyn Taylor  
Gussie Tipper  
Joe Ward  
Tony White  
Sam Steinbrook

\*Sadly, has left us.

A special thank you to the spouses and families of all the volunteers noted above that have sacrificed to allow the time graciously contributed to the Danbury Railway Museum.

On behalf of the Danbury Railway Museum, Wade W. Roese, President

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# Danbury Railway Museum

## Board Motions Passed in 2015

By Steve Gould, Secretary

### January

Motion to approve the 2015 Budget.

Motion to transfer \$50,000 from Treasury to our account at Fidelity Investments.

### February

Motion to move the April meeting to April 23.

### March

Motion to elect Don Konen Chairman of the Board.

### May

Motion to spend \$600 left over from the Meserve grant to buy new credit card machines that can read "chip" credit cards.

### June

Motion to spend up to \$3,000 to move the new acquired bay window caboos from Albany to Danbury with money to come from the general fund.

E-mail and voice motion on June 6 to approve the purchase of the bay window caboos. See July.

### July

Motion to ratify the voice/e-mail June 4 motion to purchase the bay window caboos.

Motion to ratify the voice/e-mail motion to purchase wire mesh grills for FA #617 (ex-NH) for \$3,000.

Motion to approve the revised Group Tour policy pricing.

Motion to approve the revised Birthday Party policy pricing.

### September

Motion to approve grant application with Savings Bank of Danbury to cover cost of digitizing prints and photos for the Library.

Motion to purchase and installation of a security system for the railyard and Station.

### October

Motion to approve grant applications for Mass Bay RR Enthusiasts, Meserve Foundation, Amherst Heritage, and Amherst Founders.

Motion to approve the event dates on the 2016 calendar.

Motion to approve summer operations (7 days a week) from June 1 to August 31, effective January 1.

Motion to approve closing at 4pm every day except weekends in June, July and August when closing time will be 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays, effective January 1.

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## DRM Board Motions Passed in 2015, *Continued from Page 6*

Motion to approve that effective January 1, admission will be \$6 for all guests age 3 and above with \$3 extra for train rides.

Motion to approve that the only admission price available on special event days will be the event admission price.

### November

Motion to approve a change in pricing for birthday parties and group tour rates due to the change in admission pricing approved in October. See minutes for details.

Motion to approve transfer of \$10,000 from the funds available to the Temporary Restricted Fund for the roundhouse.

**No motions passed in April, August, or December.**

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## *Congresswoman Esty Visits the DRM, Continued from Page 1*

displays in the Station as well as the model train layouts. When she saw the display of the O-gauge milk box and tank cars, she commented that she was instrumental in helping the milk industry trucking operations with a regulatory weight issue so that trucks could be operated at full capacity. Rep. Esty sits on the House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials. During their visit, Rep. Esty and Rep. Godfrey were updated on two major Museum projects: Saving the New York Central electric locomotives currently in the Albany area and the construction of a roundhouse next to the turntable.

The visit lasted almost an hour-and-a-half and Rep. Esty summed up her visit in one word - "Fantastic!" - when she signed the Guest Register.



*Above: U.S. Rep. Elizabeth Esty and St. Rep. Bob Godfrey enjoying one of the Station's model railroad displays. Top right: Engineer Jim Teer observes as U.S. Rep. Esty operates the Budd RDC #32. Bottom right: U.S. Rep. Esty and St. Rep. Godfrey checking out the observation end of the Tonawanda Valley. Photos courtesy of Skip Pearlman, The Danbury Daily Voice.*





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## MUSEUM CALENDAR

|       |            |   |
|-------|------------|---|
| March | 2(7:30pm)  | B&O Steam Power - Carl Liba                           |
| March | 9(7:30pm)  | CSX on the West Shore and B&A - Peter McLachlan       |
| March | 16(7:30pm) | <b>Annual Meeting</b>                                 |
| March | 17(7:00pm) | Board Meeting - Open to Members                       |
| March | 23(7:30pm) | To Be Announced                                       |
| March | 30(7:30pm) | To Be Announced                                       |
| April | 6(7:30pm)  | Durango & RioGrande Narrow Gauge Branches - Carl Liba |
| April | 13(7:30pm) | To Be Announced                                       |

**Museum hours: Wed-Sat 10-4; Sun 12-4**

See the newsletter in color at: [www.danburyrail.org](http://www.danburyrail.org)



### Contact Information

Please contact us with submissions:  
Mail: The Danbury Railway Museum  
Attention: Newsletter  
PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813  
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### **Change of Address:**

If moving, please send your new address to:  
Danbury Railway Museum,  
Attention: Membership Chairman  
PO Box 90, Danbury, CT 06813  
Via Email to: [drmmembers@aol.com](mailto:drmmembers@aol.com)

