

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of July 15th, 2021

1. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President John Spach.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Clif Kelly.
2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance and on Zoom
Those in attendance in person were Ron Abraham, Wayne Aiken, Bill Ferguson, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, Mike Marsh, John Ragan and John Spach.

Those attending by Zoom included Jerry Davis, Mike Irwin and Tom Magnani.
3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom
Michael Giles attended the meeting in person.
4. Minutes of the Last Meeting
There being no additions or corrections to the minutes of the last meeting, George Lasley made a motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Ken Howard seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
5. Treasurer's Report
George Lasley made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as given at the July 05, 2012, Board meeting. It was seconded by John Ragan and passed unanimously.
6. Communications with the Club – (phone, mail, email)
George Lasley has followed up with two emails to the Club. In both cases, the people wanted to sell their items rather than donate.

If bills are sent to the Clubhouse, they should be placed either in the black box in the library or on the credenza in front of the TV so that the treasurer can easily find them.

7. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership
Wayne Aiken turned in an application for a new Youth member.
Wayne was also able to hand out one of our gift bags to some visitors at the Clubhouse last weekend.
 - b. Ways and Means
It has been requested that the Club obtain a CPA to perform an audit on our books, review procedures, and file future tax returns. This is in line with the requirements set forth in the constitution and bylaws. Three different firms are being contacted to obtain estimates for this work. The Board will evaluate the information and make a decision at its next meeting.
 - c. Program
Ken Howard stated that he needs more pictures for the newsletter of members' layouts. Pictures should be emailed directly to him at klhowardjr@aol.com.

8. Old Business

a. Fall show 2021 update

George Lasley reported that checks have started coming in from the vendors for the show.

He is also beginning the process of shifting table assignments around to meet vendor requests.

The contract with the State Fair has been signed and, along with our deposit check, has been delivered.

b. Youth and Junior Membership Encouragement Plan – Tabled Until Fall

John Spach reported that we currently have 11 Youth members and six Junior members listed in our member sheet. Only two people have paid so far. John has contacted most of these people and learned that there are numerous things in the evening tying up their time. This plan has been delayed until September when the activities calendar for schools are known.

c. July Open House Update

The open house is scheduled for Saturday, July 17 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. All members are requested to help if they can.

We have determined that the no parking signs that have appeared on-site are for the workers of the new building beginning construction. Our arrangement with the adjacent property owner is still in place and we can park in those spaces as needed.

d. Presentation of New Club Brochure

John Spach thanked Ken Howard for his work in designing a new Club brochure. John was able to get 1,000 brochures printed for the cost of the paper. These are to be distributed wisely.

e. 2021 Committee Assignments and Org Chart

John Spach passed out the new Club org chart showing the Board, the five standing committees and the subcommittees. John reminded those present that membership in all subcommittees is open to Senior members in good standing who are interested and willing to help.

f. Additional Old Business as Needed.

Tom Garren mentioned that there seems to be some confusion as to Club hours on Wednesdays. We currently list 10:00 am – 12:00 pm on the door while we list 10:00 am – 2:00 pm on the website and on the Club calendar. This item has been referred to the Board for resolution.

9. New Business

a. Club Layouts – All

John Spach stated that we need plans for upgrades and maintenance for all Club layouts.

The Committee Chairs are requested to hold meetings with all interested members for each layout.

Post notices as needed to make the meetings successful.

The proposed plans for upgrades and maintenance are to be submitted to the Board for approval at the September Board meeting.

The goal is to have an idea of what is happening on each layout, and everybody can be on the same page. We cannot have individuals doing something on a layout that is not part of the overall goal or intentions for that layout. For some layouts this will be relatively easy as they have already been working in this fashion. Examples are the O Scale and N Scale layouts. It is believed that we will need a comprehensive plan from the HO and Lego committees.

b. Cleanliness and Respect for the Clubhouse

John Spach stated that all members are expected to clean up after themselves – be that a project or a lunch.

If you use an item – be it a tool or some rolling stock – return it to where you got it when you are done using it.

The meeting room area is not a dumping ground and should only be used when no other space is available.

John reminded us that the meeting room is our living room. We only have one chance to make a first impression. Let's work together to make it a good one.

c. Membership – Recruitment, Retention, and Reinstatement

John Spach stated that our long-term goal is to make us self-sufficient by dues alone. This means that our normal operating expenses should be covered by dues.

At the current level of dues, we would need 83 Senior members to accomplish this. We currently have 41 Senior members.

Interim or short-term goals have been established to start us along this way.

For the remainder of calendar 2021 we want to add five new Senior members.

Further, we want to add five more new Senior members between January 01 and May 31, 2022. This will give the Club 10 new Senior members by the end of fiscal 2021-2022.

For the immediate future we have set a goal of increasing the number of Senior members to 50 by May 31, 2022.

We have also set a long-term goal of being self-sufficient by dues alone within five years, or by May 31, 2026.

There are also 54 or so people on our mailing list that are either former members or have expressed interest in the Club. Tom Garren has been asked to send each of these people an email and extend an invitation to join the Club or let us know they are no longer interested. The mailing list will be adjusted accordingly.

Each member is encouraged to try to recruit one new Senior member this year.

d. Additional New Business

George Lasley reported that a ceiling fan has been installed in the library to make that room more comfortable. He also suggested that we set the building thermostat down on Friday night this week to precool the building in preparation for the open house on Saturday.

Ron Abraham suggested getting a streaming device so we could show youtube videos on the TV.

Tom Garren suggested that we also look at using a Club computer rather than adding a streaming device.

Ron also asked about an outing to see the depot in Hamlet, NC. Currently, we are not sure the station is open.

George Lasley is planning some local outings for the Club once the weather cools down.

Other discussion among members included the belief that the World's Greatest Hobby show is no longer in business.

John Ragan stated that Train Fest has been canceled for this year.

John Spach shared that the Albemarle club has picked up our show information and included it on their website.

We need to communicate with other clubs on the possibility of reciprocal visits.

Two possibilities are the Waynesboro club in Goldsboro and the Golden East Railroad Modelers in Rocky Mount.

Randy Foulke reported that the Timonium, MD show is back on for October this year. The show is officially named the "The Great Scale Model Train and Railroad Collectors Show". It is scheduled for October 2&3, 2021.

Bill Ferguson pointed out the donation of a wooden trolley car built by Frank Mansfield. It is for display, not for sale.

Randy Foulke has contacted Bill Swint about building modules for us should we decide to pursue a new travelling HO layout. Bill is willing to do the work should we need it. Pricing is still under consideration due the increased cost of materials.

This information is being referred to Richard Calfee, chair of the HO committee.

Ron Abraham asked John Ragan if he had any information on the Mebane train display. This site is open again. Information can be found at www.themebanetraindisplay.com. Their hours are on select Saturdays. Be sure and check before travelling.

10. Good and Welfare of the Club

In 10 days, John Spach will begin his knee replacement adventure. Good luck John!!!

Clif Kelly will have cataract surgery on August 23. Good luck Clif!!!

On August 26 Michael Giles will undergo hip replacement surgery. Good luck Michael!!!

Mike Irwin has put together an intermodal train set for a new young member. It will be delivered to the Clubhouse the next time Mike comes to Raleigh.

11. Motion for Adjournment

George Lasley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by John Ragan and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Following the meeting Ken Howard presented a picture show on the Colorado Railroad Museum.