

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President John Spach

Board members attending in person were Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean, and Bob Witwer.

John Spach attended by Zoom.

2. Recognition of Additional Members and Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

Other members attending in person included Clif Kelly and George Lasley.

Members attending by Zoom included Ted Kunstling and George Sawyer.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting – (read if needed) - motion to accept

A motion was made by Bob Witwer to accept the minutes of the last meeting. The motion was seconded by Mike Keelean and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report – motion to accept

Mike Keelean presented the Treasurer's report. He also reported that the CPA is almost finished with our taxes and will be filing them electronically this year.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Tom Garren and seconded by Bob Witwer. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

a. Phone, mail, email

George Lasley has taken care of three different communications. One resulted in a donation and the other two were questions about the Fall show.

6. Committee Reports – as needed

a. Membership

Mike Keelean reported that we have one open application for a new Youth member.

Tom Garren reported that we also have one open application for a new Senior member.

b. Ways and Means, House and Engineering committees had nothing to report.

7. Old Business

a. Fall show 2021 updates as needed.

George Lasley reported that we are progressing normally for this time before the show.

We still have a few tables to sell.

We are working with WRAL to learn the latest possible date we can cancel our advertising without having to pay. We are hoping to not have to do this but need to know the date.

We have decided not to advertise in the N&O this time based on poor results at previous shows.

Ted Kunstling reported that the show is advertised on Facebook and will be boosted a couple of weeks before the show.

b. October Open House update

We had a very good discussion about the October open house. Ted Kunstling noted several other events that have been canceled due to the Delta variant of Covid. Bob Witwer suggested that we stop any promotion immediately. This was agreed to by the Board members present. We will make a final go no go decision at the Membership meeting on September 16.

c. Ted Kunstling reminded everyone of the special program of the Raleigh Civil War Roundtable on Monday September 13<sup>th</sup>. This will be the program by David Bright on *Locomotives of the Turnpike*, a presentation of railroading during the Civil War. We are invited to attend either in person or by Zoom. See the invitation sent out on August 31 for details.

8. New Business

a. Club layouts – all.

i. Plans for development and maintenance for each layout due to the Board for review and approval.

Plans have been received from only the HO committee. Plans are also needed from the other layout committees so a budget estimate can be prepared, and a determination made by the Board on how to fund these plans going forward. The plans are also needed to help establish the priorities for each layout so that our overall plan reflects the needs of the entire Club.

ii. On a similar note, Mike Keelean noted that the inventories for this year indicate a lot rolling stock and structures on both the HO and Lego layouts are not Club property. This includes several modules of the HO layout along with several structures and trains that are parked on the layout. It was noted that if a train is left parked on the layout it may be run by anyone. It was further noted that the modules were paid for by the Club and assigned to various members in the past to scenic and otherwise develop their use. They are not the property of individuals. Another practice from the past is that if a structure is placed on the layout, it becomes Club property. There is a proposal to build additional wall racks for members to store their personal HO locomotives and rolling stock. This is a future improvement.

Ken Howard noted the need for a functioning HO committee that meets, functions and discusses these issues. It should be open to everybody with an interest in the HO layout. Mike Keelean noted that the annual inventory is required for our tax report.

John Spach reiterated that once items are placed on a layout, they are considered a donation and become the property of the Club. The

exceptions to this rule are locomotives and rolling stock. He also commented that the inventory for the HO layout needs to be revised. George Lasley noted that personal property on the layouts should be marked as such, and members should be given a deadline for achieving this marking.

John Spach asked Ken Howard and Tom Garren to develop a note to send to those members with scenery or buildings on the HO layout that they feel is their personal property. The members should either remove the items from the layout or donate them to the Club. This note will be developed soon and sent out to appropriate members.

It was also determined that very little of the Lego layout is owned by the Club.

Ken Howard will work with Calfee to schedule and conduct an HO committee meeting.

b. Membership – recruitment, retention, and reinstatement

Tom Garren noted that at the present time we still have 18 members who have not yet paid their dues. An email will be developed and sent out later this month letting each of these people know that they are now in arrears and no longer in good standing with the Club. Per the bylaws, if their dues are not caught up within three months (by December 01), they will be dropped from the roll.

c. Suggested update to policy for members in the Clubhouse with Youth and Junior members

Tom Garren presented a proposal from Mike Keelean and himself to change the wording in our new policy for members in the Clubhouse with Youth and Junior members present to include Associate members as well as Senior members. In this way we are increasing the membership pool required to keep the Club open with Youth and Junior members present.

A motion was made by Mike Keelean to proceed with this change. Bob Witwer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Tom Garren will craft the changes and send out for review. Once approved, Tom will make signs displaying the policy to be posted at the Clubhouse.

George Lasley suggested that the policy be published in the Whistle Post and posted several places in the Clubhouse.

d. Additional new business as needed

Ted Kunstling has placed a sign on the table next to the N scale layout reminding people that it is not to be used as a storage shelf.

Mike Keelean showed a newly donated N scale layout that can sold after some small repairs are made to it.

9. Good and Welfare of the Club

- a. It was clarified that it is permissible for work to be done on portable layouts at members' homes rather than at the Clubhouse. There are two N Scale layouts that are proposed be moved to the home of Phil Michaud for repairs. Once the repairs are complete these layouts will be available for sale.
- b. George Lasley reminded everyone that on Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup> he is having an open house of his layout from 1:00 – 4:00 pm. It is suggested that members meet at the Clubhouse and carpool to George's house due to limited on-street parking.

10. Adjournment of Public Meeting

A motion was made by Ken Howard and seconded by Bob Witwer to adjourn the public portion of the meeting. It passed unanimously, and the public meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

11. Executive Session – as required.

It was determined that no executive session was required this month.

12. Motion for adjournment of Board Meeting

Tom Garren made a motion for adjournment. Ken Howard seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.