

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of September 16th, 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 George Lasley.

2. Roll Call of Membership
Those attending in person were Ron Abraham, Wayne Aiken, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean, George Lasley, Mike Marsh, Dr. Lou Monville, John Spach and Bob Witwer.

Those attending by Zoom included Jerry Davis, Scott Hall, Ted Kunstling and George Sawyer.

3. Recognition of Additional Guests in Attendance and on Zoom
Tonight, we had Peter Donofrio. He has moved here from Nashville, TN. He models Pensy and New York Central in HO. He is applying for Senior membership. This is his first meeting.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting – (Read if Needed) - Motion to Accept
A motion was made to accept the minutes as submitted by George Lasley and seconded by Bob Witwer. It passed unanimously.

5. Treasurer’s Report – motion to accept
Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer’s report.
A motion was made by Tom Garren and seconded by George Lasley to accept the Treasurer’s report. The motion passed unanimously.
Mike also reported that the taxes have been completed and filed electronically.

6. Communications with the Club
 - a. Phone, Mail, Email
George Lasley reported that we have received a request to include a UNC life flight helicopter on one of our layouts.
We have also received a request for us to tear out an HO layout and received the locos, rolling stock and structures as a donation. This is still under consideration.
A final request is from a person in Durham wanting help wiring a layout. He is willing to pay for the help.

7. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership
As noted above, Peter Donofrio attended his first meeting tonight.
 - b. Ways and Means
Nothing to report
 - c. House
Mike Keelean noted that he recently came to the Clubhouse and found the remains from someone’s lunch on the floor. Mike also noted that we have a roach problem, and we don’t need to encourage them. Members are reminded to clean up after themselves when finished for the day, whether it is scraps from a meal or materials for a project.

George Lasley will call the exterminator and get him to spray for pests, as we have seen some roaches and evidence of mice recently.

- d. Engineering
Nothing to report

8. Old Business

- a. Fall Show 2021 Update

George Lasley reported that table sales are about where they should be for this time of year.

We still have some tables as well as some people inquiring.

George Lasley is checking with the Fairgrounds to make sure we are on their schedule.

At the show we are expecting these layouts:

- i. Garden scale
- ii. NTrak and TTrak for N scale
- iii. The East Carolina O and our O scale layouts
- iv. Atlantic Coast S gaugers
- v. Sipping and Switching for HO
- vi. John Deere layout
- vii. Our Lego layout

Once again, we will require face coverings and have hand sanitizer stations.

- b. October Open House Update

All advertising for the Open House has been taken down. The go no go decision will be made tonight.

John Spach noted that if we have the Open House and a situation arose that caused people to quarantine, we could be shorthanded at the Fall show.

Tom Garren reported that Mike Johns, Open House Chairman, agrees with the idea of canceling the Open House for now.

George Lasley made a motion to cancel the October 9th Open House. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

- c. Brick Universe Update – Note from Steve Wills

Steve needs more people to work the Brick Universe show to both display the Lego layout and to represent the Club.

John Spach reminded the membership that our main purpose there is to promote the Club. If we are not able to promote the Club, it seems like a waste of our resources. We need to take flyers and cards to the show and hand out these materials.

George Sawyer suggested that our volunteers wear Club shirts if they have them.

Ron Abraham asked if we had handout materials for the show. John answered that we have flyers and cards. We should hand out cards first and save the flyers for those who seem really interested.

- d. Work Session Planned to Finish the Relocation of Lockers and Metal Cabinet from the Layout Room and to Redo Storage Closets and Lockers

We need a Phase II work session to continue the work started some months ago.

This time we will concentrate on moving the storage cabinet near the HO layout to the rear storage room and moving the lockers to the front closet. We will also remove more junk from the storage areas and take it to the dump. After some discussion, the membership agreed to hold the work session on October 9th.

Mike Keelean reminded everyone that the lockers need to be emptied and left unlocked prior to the October 9th work session. The lockers are screwed together and will have to be unscrewed and separated to be moved. It was further suggested that if you want to retain a locker just unlock the locker and leave your lock hanging on it as a sign that you wish to retain its use.

John Spach will provide grilled hot dogs and fixings for lunch at the work session. Individuals are responsible for their own drinks.

We need as many hands as possible and vehicles to transport junk to dump.

Tom Garren will post a sign on the lockers to remind members to empty and leave their lockers unlocked by October 9th.

e. Club Shirts

It was noted that we are out of Club shirts that will fit most of our members. We need to come up with the number of shirts and sizes needed so we can proceed to make an order. There was a discussion of styles, colors and material composition. John Spach will work with Doug Alumbaugh to coordinate the order.

Tom Garren will post a shirt signup sheet for new shirts on the door to the HO room.

9. New Business

a. Club Layouts – All

i. Plans for Development and Maintenance for each Layout were Due to the Board for Review and Approval

So far only HO layout has responded. The other layouts need to submit in writing a plan for what is planned for the fiscal year and the dollars needed to achieve the plans.

ii. Club Inventory is Required for Insurance and Tax Purposes – Current Report Needs Work, Especially the HO Layout

It is a requirement that we submit an inventory of our assets each year. This information can also be used to increase our insurance coverage if we choose to do so.

There were several discrepancies this year in the inventory for the HO layout. In some cases, it is unclear what is Club property and what is owned personally. Ken Howard and Bob Witwer are working on a procedure for identifying and marking Club property (locomotives and rolling stock) on the HO layout. It is essential that individuals with property on the layout identify their equipment to let Ken know so that it is not included in the updated HO inventory and could eventually be sold. We are planning to build additional storage for both Club and individual equipment, so that the equipment does not have to be stored on the layout.

iii. Reminder of Club Policy on Ownership of Materials on the Layouts

Ken Howard also reiterated the Club policy that the modules, track, and scenery are the property of the Club. This is also true for structures. If a member feels they have a claim to a structure or a particular piece of scenery, they should make that claim known now so this can get ironed out. This must be done prior to October 18th. If you have any questions, please contact Ken Howard to discuss.

Ted Kunstling suggested we create a photographic record of our assets to substantiate our inventory. Ken Howard stated that the new inventory will be done on a module-by-module basis with photographs.

John Spach suggested running only Club equipment during open houses. If a problem should occur, we would rather it be with Club equipment than personally owned equipment.

b. S Scale Update

Ron Abraham reported that the S scale layout has been converted to DC operation. We do now want to run AC locomotives on the DC layout. If someone comes in with an AC locomotive, the wires feeding the desired track should be switched from a DC power pack to an AC transformer.

c. Membership – Recruitment, Retention, and Reinstatement

Dues are now past due, and reminder emails are being sent to members whose dues are delinquent.

d. Update to Policy for Members in the Clubhouse with Youth and Junior Members

i. Addition of Associate Members to Requirement

At the September 7th Board meeting a change to the wording in our new policy for members in the Clubhouse with Youth and Junior members present was made 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.

The policy now reads:

If a minor Youth or Junior member with a parent or guardian requires admission to the building, there must be either two Senior members or one Senior member and one Associate member present while the minor is in the Clubhouse. The only exception to this is if the parent or guardian of the minor is also a Senior or Associate member of the Club.

e. Additional New Business as Needed

John Spach reminded the membership that the Clubhouse should be treated as your living room. Use the shop if possible and clean up before you leave.

Scott Hall reminded members to allow time for cleanup when working at the Clubhouse.

Mike Keelean suggests a training session for the workshop equipment. He and Wayne Aiken will provide this training as the program for our October 21st Membership meeting.

Ted Kunstling thanked George Lasley for holding his open house last Sunday.

George Sawyer reported that Lionel has canceled their warehouse sale that was scheduled for September 25th, but they are continuing with their 50% off parts sale, if the parts are ordered during that weekend.

A short discussion was held about the items for sale at Tom's Trains in South Hills.

Ted Kunstling reported he has received another phishing email supposedly from Clif Kelly.

John Spach reminded members that we have also had a phishing text supposedly from him. Just a reminder to stay ever vigilant with texts and emails.

10. Good and Welfare of the Club

Tom Garren announced that Richard Calfee's mother-in-law, Charlotte Mangene, passed away on Wednesday afternoon. Please remember Calfee and Marilyn in your thoughts and prayers.

11. Adjournment

Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by George Lasley and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

12. Program

Randy Foulke presented a program on Rail Car Cleaning, both prototype and how to model.