

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of October 21, 2021

1. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by John Spach at 6:59 pm

2. Roll Call of Member in Attendance and on Zoom

Those attending in person were Ron Abraham, Bernie Dawson, Ken Howard, Mike Johns, Mike Keelean, Ted Kunstling, Mike Marsh, Dr. Lou Monville, Henry Shirley, John Spach, Ken Wesp, and Bob Witwer.

Those attending by Zoom included Jerry Davis, William Hanses, Joe Johnston, Owen Maddux, and Tom Magnani.

Wayne Aiken attended the after meeting program as a presenter.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

Peter Donofrio attended his third meeting as a guest.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

A motion was made to accept the minutes as submitted by Mike Keelean and seconded by Bob Witwer. It passed unanimously.

5. Treasurers Report

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report.

A motion was made by Dr. Lou Monville and seconded by Ken Wesp to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Communications with the Club

a. Phone, mail, email

Ken Howard reported two ongoing contacts, one for an HO donation, are still active.

7. Committee Reports – as needed

a. Membership

i. Mike Keelean reported that the Membership Committee has nominated Peter Donofrio for membership in the Club. Peter was accepted as a Senior member by unanimous vote of the members present.

ii. John Spach emphasized the importance of using the November show to recruit potential members for the Club. Members should carry a stock of business cards, brochures, and other contact information for distribution to interested people.

iii. John Spach reported that a list of members who have been lost over the last several years is in preparation by Tom Garren. When the list is complete, members will be asked to help in making contact with past members.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report

c. House

Mike Keelean reported that the entire O-scale layout is again operational.

Ken Howard reported that John Wallis had completed a review of the DCC circuitry on the HO layout and had submitted a report with specific recommendations for improvement. Most of the recommendations can be made at little to no cost.

- d. Engineering
Nothing to report

8. Old Business

- a. Update on Show details for November Show
Mike Keelean and John Spach reported that tables for the show are essentially sold out. Only two sets of three tables each have not been paid for. Loading of the trailer to go to the show is scheduled for 7 pm, Thursday, November 4th. Set up will be at 8:30 am Friday morning. Members are reminded to bring heavy gloves and pliers as staples are commonly encountered when setting up tables. Teardown and transfer of equipment back to the Clubhouse will immediately follow the end of the show on Sunday.
Tom Garren will send an e-mail detailing the schedule to all Members,
- b. John Spach reported on the results of the October 9th work session. Changes included relocation of the large storage cabinet to the men's room, movement of the lockers to the storage closet, and addition of new wall mounted shelf units for storage of Club and Member's personal rolling stock.
 - i. Another work session will be scheduled following the Show where members can work on rolling stock, including installing decoders in Club engines for DCC operation. Ted Kunstling asked about availability of tools for the work session. John Spach mentioned that the Club had received a donation of soldering irons that would be available and that Wayne Aiken would prepare a list of tools that Members might have to bring with them.
- c. The Club has been invaded by ants again - the latest incursion was seen near the recycling bin where the ants found attractive amounts of sugar in empty cans. The exterminator was called and has dispatched the ants. It was suggested that future problems might be alleviated by rinsing cans before disposal.
- d. John Space reported continuing issues with rolling stock left on the HO layout and with switches not returned to correct positions after use. In addition, there have also been issues with unsupervised youth players putting excessive wear and tear on the N-gauge layout resulting in damage to locomotives.
John Spach reiterated that all youth and Junior members must be actively supervised by an adult and a Senior member to prevent recurrence of such damaging behavior.
- e. Ken Howard and Bob Witwer presented results of the on-going inventory of the HO layout and Club rolling stock. When the inventory has been completed the HO committee will assess the items for repair or possible sale. Dan Egy agreed to assess the HO cars with hook-and-pin couplers for possible sale, disposal, or conversion of couplers to Kadees.

9. New Business

- a. The Club Membership has been invited to Phil Michaud's home to see his N-scale and HO-scale layouts on Saturday, October 23rd from 10 am to 2pm. Masks Please.
- b. John Spach presented the results of the Board of Governors last meeting which, unanimously passed a resolution to reallocate space for various layouts.

- i. Thomas layout will be refreshed and raffled off at the Show. Tickets will be \$1 each and members are encouraged to sell tickets during the Show.
 - ii. The existing Lego layout will not return after the Show. It will be returned to its owner, as it is a personal layout.
 - iii. The area previously occupied by Thomas will be considered for a Club owned right sized Lego layout.
 - iv. The remainder of the layout room will be reallocated to the HO and N layouts exclusively.
 - c. Following completion of the HO inventory and maps of layout modules, the HO committee will hold open meetings for Members to contribute to the planning of new modifications to the existing layout.

10. Good and Welfare of the Club

John Spach reported to the membership that Tom Garren's brother had passed away.

Ken Howard requested signatures on the sympathy card from the Club.

John Spach will have his second knee replacement next Tuesday, but expects to attend the show

11. Adjournment of Meeting

Bernie Dawson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mike Johns and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

12. 5–10-minute break for program set up

13. Program

Mike Keelean and Wayne Aiken gave an introduction to the bench power tools in the shop and lead a general discussion of tools that are available for member use.