

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes for the Membership Meeting of November 18, 2021

1. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
The meeting was called to order by President John Spach at 6:58 pm.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Clif Kelly.

2. Roll Call of Member in Attendance and on Zoom
Members attending in person were Ron Abraham, Wayne Aiken, Richard Calfee, Peter Donofrio, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, Mike Marsh, Dr. Lou Monville, Ken Wesp, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom were Doug Alumbaugh, Jerry Davis, Ken Howard and John Spach.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom
Guests included John Wallis in persona and Luke Tomberlin on Zoom.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting
George Lasley made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

5. Treasurers Report
Mike Keelean presented the Treasurer's report. He also suggested that money be moved around within our accounts to better balance our resources. Mike made a motion to move the funds as requested. It was seconded by John Spach and passed unanimously.

6. Communications With the Club
 - a. Ted Kunstling related that he has had a request by a parent to bring a child by to see the Clubhouse and layouts. Ted further suggested that members check out our Facebook page where we can find links to Sipping and Switching and other organizations.

 - b. Calfee noted one phone call that was only a conversation with the caller.

 - c. Mike Keelean noted that we have received a small O donation of some very basic Lionel equipment.

 - d. Wayne Aiken noted that we had a donation of 20 boxes of magazines left at the front door last Friday night. The donor was not identified. About 150 issues were used in our collection and the remainder will be put back to go to the show. Calfee noted that a gentleman called on November 3rd named Jerry Cole that said he was going bring a donation by sometime after the show. This may have been our benefactor.

7. Committee Reports
 - a. Membership
There were two new members to be voted on tonight.

First, John Wallis is joining as an Associate member. He is retired from Northern Telecom. He is President of the North Raleigh Model Railroad Club and Nrail, the national N scale organization. He likes Union Pacific.

George Lasley made the motion to suspend the rules and make him a member by acclimation. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.

Second, Luke Tomberlin is joining as a Youth member. This is his second meeting. He models in HO and likes the Cass Scenic Railroad.

George Lasley made the motion to suspend the rules and make him a member by acclimation. The motion was seconded by Ted Kunstling and passed unanimously.

b. House

Mike Keelean reported that now that the fall show is over, we need to put the for-sale items back on the shelf and store the other show materials in the storage area. We also need to get the credit card machine back in the front room so it can be used for Club sales. It was used extensively at the show. Finally, the Lego equipment has been removed from the Clubhouse.

8. Old Business

a. Fall Show Report

George reported that we made a profit at the Fall show.

The Club table and the raffle were successful. Chase Teal won the raffle and was able to receive the layout at the show.

Vendors were pleased with their sales.

The food service was good.

George Lasley made a motion to close the Fall 2021 show. It was seconded by Mike Keelean and passed unanimously.

George Lasley made a motion to open the 2022 Spring show. It was seconded by Randy Foulke and passed unanimously.

George reported that we already have the contract for the Spring show from the State Fairgrounds. The date has been moved one week earlier to avoid Mother's Day. The dates for the show are now April 30th-May 1st with set up on April 29th.

i. Discussion of Email Mask Incident at Show

We had a situation occur at the show where a family in attendance could not get a two-year-old child to wear a mask.

George responded to the email sent to the Club restating our posted policy.

A discussion of masking policy and conduct at the Show was held.

b. Update on Next Work Session at Club

John Spach led a discussion about the next work session at the Clubhouse. This session will teach members how to install DCC decoders in engines and update couplers on some rolling stock. The group settled on the date of Saturday, January 15, 2022. John will work with Wayne to establish an estimate for the materials needed. This will be reported at the December Board meeting so it can be approved, and the materials purchased prior to the work session.

c. Progress Report on Updating and Renewing the HO Layout

Ken Howard reported that the HO committee wants to hold a meeting at the Clubhouse on Sunday afternoon, December 5th at 1:00 pm. All members interested in the HO layout are requested to attend.

Ken says that we can gain about 90 extra square feet of floor space by shifting the N scale layout toward the entrance door. Allowing for access, the net increase in square footage for the HO layout is about 70 square feet.

Members are encouraged to be thinking about what is wanted in the revised HO layout. Do you want to preserve what we have? Do you want to shift some modules around? Where should we begin to create the “new” HO layout? Input is needed from anyone with an interest in the Club HO layout.

Tom Garren was asked by John Spach to send out an email to the membership on this meeting and include a “Save the Date” about the January work session.

d. Additional Old Business as Needed

Richard Calfee mentioned that masks are not always being worn in the Clubhouse to stay in compliance with our own policy. It was discussed and agreed that we all need to be more diligent in adhering to the policy and helping enforce while at the Clubhouse. Don’t hesitate to ask someone else to put their mask on while in the Clubhouse.

Wayne Aiken reported that it has been determined that one of our Digitrax Zephyr units has an internal fault. It was suggested that we work with Digitrax to get the unit repaired.

Mike Keelean suggested that we approve the purchase of a new Zephyr then pursue getting the old one fixed. It was determined that this should be handled as two items.

A motion to fund up to \$250.00 for the purchase of a new Digitrax Zephyr (DCS 52) unit for the N scale layout was made by George Lasley and seconded by Ken Howard. It passed unanimously.

A discussion was held about the feasibility of getting the other Zephyr repaired. John Wallis stated that it should be a standard repair price and can be repaired. A second motion was made by George Lasley to authorize the repair of the failed Zephyr unit not to exceed \$75.00. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

Mike Keelean asked for authorization to reimburse Ron Alexander \$20.00 for S scale track he purchased at the show for use on the Club’s S scale layout. Tom Garren made the motion to reimburse. It was seconded by Ted Kunstling and passed unanimously.

Mike also asked for approval to spend up to \$100.00 to obtain parts needed to improve track power on the G scale layout. George Lasley made the motion to authorize the expenditure of up to \$100.00 for track connectors for the G scale layout. It was seconded by Randy Foulke and passed unanimously.

There was also a discussion about discounting tickets at the Show.

9. New Business

a. Spring Show Planning

George Lasley stated that the flyers for the Spring show will be available soon. Please help get them placed in area restaurants. We expect to have layouts from North Raleigh, our O gauge layout and perhaps Lego.

Tom Garren stated that the show signs, mark 2.0 will be implemented prior to the Spring show. George and Tom will upgrade the signs by attaching the signs to the small sandwich signs with screws. This work will be done prior to the show.

Ken Howard stated that the merchandise for the show will be priced and stored for the show. The only exception to this will be items that are for sale and placed on the appropriate shelves in the Clubhouse. We need N scale and S scale items in particular. While we are OK on HO and O items for sale in quantity, we need better quality items in those scales to maximize our sales.

We were reminded of the importance of continuing to receive donations. John Spach asked that the website be reviewed and adjusted as needed to clearly state that donations are welcome. Make it clear that donations go to support the on-going activities of the Club.

b. Additional New Business as Needed

George Lasley reminded us that the TCA show will be in the Kerr Scott building on December 4th and 5th. After discussion it was decided that we do not want to have a table at the show this year.

c. Club Hours During the Holidays

Tom Garren asked for clarification about our hours during Christmas and New Year's. It was discussed and determined to show the Club is closed on both Christmas and New Year's weekends on the Club calendars on our website. The reason given is that so members can spend time with their families.

10. Good and Welfare of the Club

a. We are glad to report that Ken Howard is recovering well from his recent illness.

b. Ron Abraham noted that the driveway is hard to see in the dark and asked that we install some reflectors to help drivers see the driveway when turning off Old Louisburg Road. It was agreed to proceed with this activity.

11. Adjournment of Meeting

Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mike Keelean and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

12. Program

There was no program at the November meeting.