

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of December 6, 2021

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board

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

Board members in attendance at the Clubhouse were Wayne Aiken, Richard Calfee, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean and Bob Witwer.

Attending by Zoom was John Spach.

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

Members attending at the Clubhouse included Ted Kunstling and George Lasley.

Members attending by Zoom included Doug Alumbaugh, Peter Donofrio, Bill Edwards, Darlene Edwards, and Tom Magnani.

One guest, John Mezera, attended by Zoom.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Ken Howard made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as submitted. It was seconded by Mike Keelean and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report. He further stated that all bills for the Fall show have been paid, as has the deposit for the Spring show with the State Fairgrounds. Mike also stated that we are not currently taking in the money from membership that is required to keep the doors open at the Club. This should provide incentive for us to continue to increase membership and work to get donations of items we can sell to raise funds.

Tom Garren made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

a. Phone, mail, email

i. John Spach acknowledged the resignation notice from John Regan, and that he replied stating that John is welcome to come back at any time.

ii. Ken Howard discussed a potential donation of 14 HO modules. There are also some structures and some HO roadbed as well. These modules are located in Greenville and are not built to Sipping and Switching standards. The issue was discussed at length and was summed up by saying the value to the Club in these modules is the wood they contain. The issue with them is both the current location and the storage problem they will present to the Club. It was determined that we are interested but need some time to work out the logistics of our situation. Ken was asked to contact the donor and see if it is OK for us get back with him after the first of the year.

iii. John Spach asked how we are set up for receiving emails at the Club. It is believed that emails from outside and through our website may be going to John Ragan who then forwards appropriately. Ted Kunstling stated that he receives communications coming from our Facebook page. Ken Howard suggests a single point of contact to receive and distribute these communications and to make sure they are taken care of and not lost. Spach asked Tom Garren to look into the situation with the Club email and report back what is really happening by the next Board meeting. Ken agreed to help with this also. Wayne Aiken suggested a roll account which would work like a distribution list.

6. Committee Reports – as needed

a. Membership

John Mezera attended tonight's meeting by Zoom. This is his second meeting, making him eligible for a membership vote at the next Membership meeting.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. House

The Lego tables have been separated and are available for other use.

d. Engineering

The connectors to improve the performance of the G scale layout have been obtained and will be installed soon.

7. Old Business

a. Fall Show

A final report for the Fall show was given by Mike Keelean and George Lasley. The show netted a profit for the Club.

b. Spring Show 2022 Update

George Lasley reported that the flyers for the Spring show have been printed. They are available at the Clubhouse and at Nick's Trains at the current time. As time gets closer to the show, flyers will be distributed to more places such as other shops and restaurants.

The deposit has been paid to the State Fairgrounds for the Spring show.

The vendor list will be updated before the show letters are sent out.

TCA will probably buy a block of tables again.

Ways to reduce the cost of the show will be looked at and taken when practical.

WRAL has been notified that George Lasley is now their point of contact for the Club.

c. Additional Old Business

Mike Keelean reported the billing problem for our website hosting has been resolved.

Wayne Aiken will order a new Digitrax Zephyr as previously approved. He will also investigate the steps needed to get the one that failed repaired.

8. New Business

a. HO Layout Committee.

Ken Howard gave a report on the activities and progress of the HO committee to date. A meeting was held on Sunday, December 5th with 15 people in attendance. Several options were presented for expanding the HO layout. It was decided by a vote of 13 to 2 to remove existing modules 1 and 10 and combine this area with the other space available to make an expansion of 155 square feet to the HO layout.

A subcommittee will meet after breakfast on December 15 to inventory materials we have in stock at the Clubhouse that can be used in building the expansion. This information is needed to create an accurate estimate of the funds needed for the project to proceed.

A second subcommittee will report back in January with options for the track plan.

It was further suggested that we use space along the outside wall to build a staging yard. This yard will be able to be isolated electrically from the rest of the layout, giving members the ability to build their trains without creating momentary shorts to the entire layout.

John Spach reminded the committee of the importance of the cost estimate. It was also decided that an additional tab will be created on the website for minutes of the HO committee meetings.

There will also be a summary report from the committee each month in the Whistle Post.

b. Membership – Recruitment, Retention, and Reinstatement

Tom Magnani is going through old emails from the last several years to identify people who may wish to rejoin or join the Club.

This was followed by a discussion of ways to make the meetings more interesting, to stimulate more members to attend, and to draw in new members.

John Mezera suggested that meetings should not exceed one hour.

Tom Magnani suggested that special programs should be held before the business meeting.

John Spach suggested that most of the business be transacted at the Board meetings. This would give more time for programs of interest at the Membership meetings.

Tom Garren suggested the implementation of a 50/50 drawing at our meetings.

c. Additional new business as needed

George Lasley will provide the program for the December Membership meeting. George also reminded everyone that the December meeting is when we pass the hat for our annual Christmas charity giving. This was discussed at some length. Members can make a donation directly at the December meeting or can place a donation in the Club box in the library by noting on the envelope that it is for the charity donation.

Bob Witwer made a motion to setup a charitable match by the Club for up to \$500.00 for donations made by members through December 31. The recipient will be determined later. Tom Garren seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

9. Good and Welfare of the Club

Bill Edwards suggested that we have a small presentation at breakfast between the time we place our orders, and the food arrives. Some suggestions included reviewing the trivia questions from the newsletter, of having members discuss their home layouts. Ideas for other programs include inviting speakers from CSX or NS to discuss how prototype trains operate in yards and on the line. Members with any ideas are suggested to send an email to the Club, and we will see what we can work out.

10. Adjournment of Public Meeting

Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the public portion of the meeting. It was seconded by Mike Keelean and passed unanimously. The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 pm.

11. Executive Session

An executive session was held.

12. Motion for adjournment of Board Meeting

Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.