

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of December 16, 2021

1. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance
The meeting was called to order by President John Spach at 6:59 pm.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Clif Kelly.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance and on Zoom
Members present in person were Wayne Aiken, Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Mike Johns, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, Mike Marsh, John Spach, and John Wallis.

Members present by Zoom were Jerry Davis, Pete Donofrio, Bill Edwards, Darlene Edwards, William Hanses, Ken Howard, and Ethan Quiram.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom
John Mezera joined by Zoom later in the meeting.

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

5. Treasurers Summary Report
Mike Keelean submitted the Treasure's report. Tom Garren made a motion to accept the report. It was seconded by George Lasley and passed unanimously.

6. Communications with the Club
 - a. John Spach announced that, based input from the membership, we are trying to conduct the majority of the Club's business at the monthly Board meeting. This will allow us to shorten the monthly Membership meetings and still leave more time for programs, learning and socializing. The meeting tonight is our first with a new agenda format to satisfy this request.

 - b. Tom Garren shared an email the Club has received from Todd Pletcher announcing a train show this Saturday, December 18th in the Fort Mill, SC Clarion Hotel.

7. Membership Committee
John Mezera has attended two meetings and is eligible to be voted into the Club as a Senior member. Mike Keelean made a motion to suspend the rule that John be present to be voted into the Club. It was seconded by Mike Johns and passed unanimously. Further, George Lasley made a motion to accept John Mezera as a Senior member. Tom Garren seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

8. Old Business
 - a. John Spach reminded members to please pay for beverages and keep the Club rooms picked up and trash removed. We do not have a trash service at the

Clubhouse so members should take trash home and dispose of it there. The meeting room of the Clubhouse should be treated like your living room.

- b. Randy Foulke presented a report of HO Layout Committee progress and plans going forward. A working session was held Wednesday, December 15th where Randy Foulke, Pete Donofrio and Ken Howard met and prepared an inventory of items in storage that can be used on the HO layout expansion. They also identified some items not needed which have been added to our items for sale. Several questions were asked from the audience to get clarification on modules that will be removed from the layout, and questions concerning egress around the layouts.

Randy mentioned that another subcommittee is tasked with developing the plan for the new improved HO layout. He also reminded the members that the next meeting of the HO committee is scheduled for Sunday, January 16th at 1:00 pm at the Clubhouse. Plan on attending if you are interested in the HO layout changes.

Tom Garren reminded members that minutes of the HO committee meetings are available on our website.

- c. Updates on Spring Show
George Lasley reported he has a good supply of flyers for the Spring show. Please get some flyers from George and place them in local restaurants and shops where we can spread the word about the show.

9. New Business

- a. Seasonal Weekend Hours for the Club
After some discussion, it was decided that we will show the Club as closed on both Christmas and New Year's Day on our published calendars.
- b. Annual Pass the Hat for Charity
George Lasley reported that it has long been a tradition at the Club to do an activity for charity at Christmas time. In recent years, this has been to donate money to selected charities. Members were reminded that at the December Board meeting a motion was passed to match members contributions made through December 31st up to \$500.00.

After some discussion where several charities were mentioned, Randy Foulke made a motion to do a 50/50 split of money raised between The Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina and The Helping Hand Mission. John Spach seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Remember, your contributions will be accepted up through December 31st. If you are at the Clubhouse, donations may be made by putting your cash or check in an envelope, writing that this is a donation for our annual charity event on the envelope and putting the envelope in the black box in the library.

10. Program

This month's program was two videos provided by George Lasley. The first showed a pair of British Type 5 locomotives double heading a passenger train at speed.

The second video was a combination of the 1957 O. Winston link audio recording of Christmas music and the passing of a steam train in Rural Retreat, VA and video footage of 612 pulling a passenger train through Rural Retreat in October of 1994.

John Spach reminded everyone that we need volunteers to provide the program in upcoming months. If you would like to do a program just let John Spach, Tom Garren or Ken Howard know.

11. Good and Welfare of the Club

Ken Howard announced that he needs content for upcoming issues of the Whistle Post. He has pretty much exhausted his stack of materials. Please send him articles and pictures of layouts, real trains, book and product reviews, and links to interesting videos and websites.

John Spach mentioned the desire to have more layout visits. Any member wishing to have an open house to share your layout, please let us know your preferred date and we will get out an announcement.

12. Adjournment of Meeting

George Lasley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.