

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Wayne Aiken at 7:01 pm.

Board members in attendance in person were Wayne Aiken, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean, and Bob Witwer.

Richard Calfee attended by Zoom.

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

Members attending in person were Mike Johns, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, and Mike Marsh.

Members attending by Zoom were Ron Abraham, Jerry Davis, and Bill Hanses.

Two guests attended tonight by Zoom. They were Tim Covell and Jim Nelson.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Mike Keelean made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report.

Tom Garren made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. It was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

a. Ken Howard reported that he has been in contact with Steve Mabry from Greenville. More items have been identified to be included in his donation. These items include more modules, structures, track, switches and electrical components. A second trip to Greenville will be required to pick up these items. Bob Witwer and Ken will arrange a time for this trip. If possible, John Mezera will help.

b. Wayne Aiken referred to a note left by the phone from a David Lyles. George Lasley is working with David to answer his questions and determine next steps.

c. Ken Howard has passed a new RFI form to Tom Garren so this person can receive the Whistle Post and meeting invitations.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

The two guests tonight have applied for membership. This was their first meeting.

Jim Nelson lives in Fuquay-Varina and models HO. His favorite railroad is the New York Central.

Tim Covell lives in Holly Springs and models O gauge. He likes Norfolk Southern and its predecessors.

Wayne Aiken suggested that we consider advertising in the Technician to attract more NC State students with an interest in model railroading to the Club.

b. Ways and Means

George Lasley requested a volunteer to fill the vacancy on the Ways and Means committee. Mike Keelean volunteered to take the assignment.

c. House

Mike Keelean noted that we need more space at the Clubhouse to display items for sale. He suggested that we move the shelves from the Ladies rest room to the wall in the meeting room previously occupied by the Thomas layout.

Mike also requested volunteers to help as part of the House committee. He needs a couple of people to make the committee work as it should.

George Lasley stated that he has some shelving brackets he will donate to the Club. These may be useful for creating even more shelf space.

Wayne Aiken requested a price list for the Club clothing items we have for sale.

7. Old Business

a. Spring Show 2022 Update

George Lasley reported that we have 13 tables left out of 160+ that we have for sale. We intend to have the North Raleigh N scale layout and our traveling O scale layout at the show. He is still working to determine if we will also have the S scale group's layout and Steve Wills' Lego layout.

b. HO Layout Committee Progress Report

Ken Howard reminded everyone of the HO committee meeting scheduled for Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. There are several work sessions that need to be scheduled and completed so that the HO improvements can proceed. These include:

- Moving the N scale layout to its new location
- Mount the AC unit on the wall to free up floor space
- Remove two existing modules from the layout
- We also want to expand the description of the expansion and begin to discuss details.
- How do we access the areas in the layout?

Bob Witwer added that we have a good concept of the desires of the membership. Now it is time to nail down the design details.

The next steps will be to put the plans down on paper and verify what it will take to put the plan into reality. Several members have submitted ideas. Peter King has the SCARM software and will help develop the final plan with this tool.

Bob Witwer also noted that if anyone wants any of the modules received in the donation, they should contact him and arrange a time to inspect what is available.

John Mezera stated that he has three train related DVDs he will donate to the Club. These may be useful in upcoming open houses.

- c. Review Club Open Hours Post Covid Closing for January  
A discussion was held about our hours going forward now that we are out of January. The consensus of those present was it is desirable to return to allowing guests to come into the Clubhouse during our normal hours as long as we still maintain our existing mask policy for everyone inside. Mike Keelean made a motion to open the Clubhouse to guests during our normal hours of operation with the stipulation that everyone wear a mask while they are inside the Clubhouse. Tom Garren seconded the motion which passed unanimously.
8. New Business
- a. The upcoming work session was discussed at length. It is scheduled for Saturday, February 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. We are to install decoders in several Club engines that are currently DC only. It was apparent that we are not certain which decoders are needed. George Lasley suggested that we might want to try decoders from different manufacturers to determine our preference. Jerry Davis reminded us that a computer with Java 11 could be used to run JMRI, and this tool could be used to program decoders. Ken Howard and Bob Witwer will inventory the engines needing chips and select those to be upgraded at the work session. Wayne Aiken will order the decoders needed to update the selected engines.  
To assure that we have the funds allocated for this project, Bob Wither made a motion to allocate up to \$300.00 to buy decoders to upgrade Club locomotives at the work session. Tom Garren seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
  - b. Ron Abraham requested funds to convert the recently acquired S scale PA Rocket to DC drive. After a good discussion, Tom Garren motioned to approve up to \$200.00 for this conversion. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.
  - c. Ken Howard stated that several members have stated a desire to have hot water at the Clubhouse. He believes the easiest way to achieve this is with the under the sink units. Another possibility would be the installation of a small conventional water heater to serve both rest rooms. Ken will gather more information and report back.
  - d. Ted Kunstling suggested using some Model Railroader how to DVDs for programs in upcoming meetings. This could provide a good learning opportunity for our members.
9. Good and Welfare of the Club
- Wayne Aiken reported that the turkey decanter has been repaired. He will let Tom Fisher know of its availability.

10. Adjournment of Board Meeting

As no executive session was required this month, Mike Keelean made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.