

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of March 7th, 2022

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board

The meeting was called to order by President John Spach at 7:01 pm.

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

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

Additional members present included Dan Egy, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, and Mike Marsh.

Additional members attending by Zoom were Tom Magnani, and John Mezera.

Tom Patton attended the meeting as a Guest. This is his first meeting.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Bob Witwer made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by John Spach and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report

Mike Keelean gave the Treasure'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 Tom Magnani had forwarded contact information from a Bob Reeves who is interested in selling some HO equipment, cars and buildings. He is located in the Durham area and can be reached at (919) 724-2191. Give Bob a call if you are interested.

b. Richard Calfee reported that Cameron Davis' grandfather contacted the Club asking if we could help Cameron program the decoder in a locomotive. Calfee advised the grandfather that Club members would be glad to help. Cameron just needs to come by some time when he is in town, and we are open.

c. Ted Kunstling has put information about our May show on both NMRA and Sipping and Switching's pages.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Tom Garren gave an update on the number of members in the Club.

b. House

Mike Keelean reported that he has gotten some help on the House committee. Mike Johns is taking care of the paper product needs, and Richard Calfee is keeping the sodas stocked in the refrigerator.

John Spach thanked the members who cleaned up the meeting room this week. He also suggested that we contact Stanley Steamer to get the carpet in the meeting room and hall professionally cleaned. Mike Keelean will follow up on this item.

7. Old Business

a. Spring Show 2022 Update

George Lasley reported that we are out of tables and the waiting list is growing. We could easily sell an additional 15 – 18 tables if we had the space. We may be able to add a few more tables, but not the entire number.

George also asked the Board if it is time to consider moving the Spring show to a larger building. After some discussion it was decided that George will talk to the Fairgrounds about a possible upgrade. The Board will also assess the feasibility after we know the results of the May show this year.

b. Report on the Progress of the HO Committee

Ken Howard and Bob Witwer reported that Bob has sent out a strawman to the design subcommittee for consideration.

Ken reminded everyone that the next HO committee meeting will be on Sunday, March 20th at 1:00 pm at the Clubhouse.

A workday is needed to strip down the modules from the Greenville donation. This should require 11 or 12 members to salvage usable materials and scrap the rest. Switches are among the most salvageable material.

From recent donations, we have two coal mines and a four-stall roundhouse. We need to determine what industries we wish to include on the layout.

Plans are to maintain 36 inches of clearance around the layout for good access.

Richard Calfee and Tom Tiemann are working to relocate the end legs of the existing layout to remove the potential trip hazard that is there now.

After some discussion it was decided to schedule two workdays in the near future:

First, on March 19th at the Clubhouse, a session will be held to fix up the existing N scale traveling layout. This will entail some repair and cosmetic work to get the layout ready to be raffled off at the Spring show. Clif Kelly will head up the raffle at the show. Once again, lunch at the work session will be provided by John Spach.

Second, an HO module cleanup will be held on Saturday, March 26th. This will take place at the storage facility in Clayton where the modules are currently being stored.

c. Update on Upcoming and Future General Meeting Programs

John Spach shared a list of some of the upcoming programs for our Membership meetings.

March will be Ted Kunstling presenting Railways of the Civil War.

April will be Pete Donofrio doing a presentation on the 20th Century Limited.
June will be a program by John Mezera on railroad snow removal including rotary snowplows.

Three more upcoming programs will also be given based on different aspects of the DCC control system.

If you have an interest in presenting a program, please let John Spach know so it can be scheduled.

- d. George Lasley reminded everyone of the schedule for our upcoming annual elections.
The Nominating Committee will be charged at the March Membership meeting. They will report their results to the members at the April Membership meeting. Ballots will be sent out and the elections will be concluded at the May Membership meeting.

8. New Business

- a. As stated earlier, there will be a work session on March 19th at the Clubhouse to rebuild the traveling N scale layout to prepare it for raffling at the Spring show. The work will involve mostly clean up and spruce up with a little bit of track work to make the layout sellable. Clif Kelly will head up the raffle at the show.
- b. Report on special Board Meeting Held at Breakfast March 3rd
Tom Garren provided a report on a special Board meeting held at the March 2, 2022, breakfast. Board members in attendance were Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean, John Spach and Bob Witwer.

Tom Garren made a motion to authorize up to \$100.00 to John Spach for the purchase of additional decoders to add DCC to newly donated locomotives. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

Bob Witwer made a motion to comply with the City of Raleigh mask requirements. This means the signs at the Club will be removed and wearing a mask inside the Clubhouse is optional. The motion was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

- c. John Spach is installing decoders in several locomotives that were recently donated to the Club.
- d. Mike Keelean gave a report on the Lionel donation we received recently. After a work day with himself, George Sawyer, Bill Hanses and Robert Wilson all of the locomotives are now running and ready for sale.
- e. A discussion was held about the insurance we currently have on contents of the Clubhouse. It is desired to raise this to \$50,000 of coverage, if possible. George Lasley will work with our agent to obtain a current quote for this amount of coverage and report his findings back to the Board.

- f. Ken Howard announced that the deadline for submissions for the March Whistle Post is March 13th.
 - g. John Mezera asked a question about selecting the right decoder for a specific engine. John Spach suggested a section on the Digitrax website that is designed for this purpose.
 - h. Ted Kunstling suggested a virtual tour on home layouts as a possible program for a future meeting.
 - i. Wayne Aiken mentioned the possibility of a Club outing. Several ideas were discussed including going to Hamlet and visiting some neighboring clubs.
 - j. John Spach mentioned that in the future we need to decide when we would like to do another open house at our Club.
9. Good and Welfare of the Club
Tom Garren thanked John Spach for the help and instruction provided to Tom to successfully install a decoder in a Club engine.
In turn, John thanked Dan Egy who had taught him decoder installation.
This is one of the best aspects of the Club. We can share knowledge with other members and increase the skillsets of everyone interested.
10. Motion for adjournment of Board Meeting
Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Mike Keelean and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.