

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Membership Meeting of April 21, 2022**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President John Spach.

Clif Kelly led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call of Members in attendance and on Zoom

Members attending in person were Ron Abraham, Wayne Aiken, Bernie Dawson, Pete Donofrio, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, John Mezera, John Wallis, Don Weaver, Ken Wesp, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom were Richard Calfee, Jerry Davis, Mike Keelean, Owen Maddux, Tom Magnani, and John Spach.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

Two guests attended by Zoom, Michael Garver and Ethan Fuller.

This is Michael's first meeting. He recently retired and is picking up his interest in model railroading. He thinks he will join the Club.

This is Ethan's second meeting. He is Mike Keelean's grandson and requests to rejoin the Club.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

A motion was made by Ken Wesp to accept the minutes of the last meeting as submitted.

It was seconded by John Wallis and passed unanimously.

5. Treasurer's Summary Report

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report. A motion was made by Bob Witwer to accept the Treasurer's report. It was seconded by Randy Foulke and passed unanimously.

6. Communications with the Club

Richard Calfee reported on several communications with the Club.

- a. A gentleman from Wake Forest donated a four by eight HO layout. Ken and Bob picked it up.
- b. A lady sent in pictures of items she found in an outbuilding. It was decided not to take this donation and to let the lady know to go ahead and dispose of the old layout.
- c. Glenn Creech was looking for someone to buy some train equipment. Calfee referred him to Nick's Trains.

7. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Ethan Fuller requests to rejoin the Club. This is his second meeting. A motion was made by George Lasley and seconded by John Wallis to suspend the rules and bring Ethan back into the Club by acclimation. The motion passed unanimously. Welcome back Ethan!!

b. Ways and Means

George Lasley reported that the Ways and Means Committee recommends keeping the dues at their current level of \$300.00 for Senior members for fiscal year 2022-2023. Other classes of membership will be discounted as per the Bylaws.

A motion was made by George Lasley and seconded by Bernie Dawson to approve keeping the dues at \$300.00 for Senior members for the fiscal year 2022-2023. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Facilities

Mike Keelean reminded everyone that if you detect a sewer odor in the men's room, please pour a little water down the floor drain. This will fill the trap and block odors from coming into the building from the sewer.

Ken Howard mentioned concerns from our neighbor about parking once the new CrossFit business opens. This provides the potential for a lot of cars needing to park and could even result in a blocked driveway. There will be more on this once the new facility opens this summer. Stay tuned.

8. Show and Tell

Randy Foulke shared a set of documents that an engineer would always take with him on the road. These included a safety manual, rules for conducting transportation, braking and train signal procedures and rules to be used when running on other railroads due to trackage rights agreements. The books were from the Pennsylvania and Penn Central railroads.

Wayne Aiken reported that on a recent trip to Atlanta he went to three different hobby shops trying to obtain a bottle of boxcar red paint. There was none to be found. In fact, Wayne stated that our local Nick's Trains has more train merchandise than all three of the Atlanta shops combined.

George Lasley commented to support your local hobby shops so they will be there when you need to get that item immediately rather than waiting for an internet order to arrive.

9. Old Business

a. HO Layout Committee progress and plans going forward

Ken Howard reported that some efforts have been shifted to show prep due to the Spring show coming up very soon.

We had a work day at Bob's storage unit in Clayton to salvage materials from the Greenville donation. The average age of the workers was 75. We will need more help from the younger members as we begin to create the expansion of the HO layout.

The next meeting of the HO committee will be on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at the Clubhouse. The purpose of this meeting is to schedule the start of construction on the HO expansion. We have a track plan and are ready to begin work, hopefully by the end of May.

Bob Witwer noted that the track plan lays out the mainline leaving plenty of room for sidings, industries, engine facilities etc. There are still many decisions to be made as we proceed.

b. Updates on the Spring Show

John Spach stated that the O gauge layout is basically ready to take to the show. The frame may need to be painted and the track switch needs to be made to work electrically before going to the show.

George Lasley reported that we are still sold out of tables.

He also presented the schedule for the show activities:

Thursday April 28<sup>th</sup>, meet at the Clubhouse to load the trailer. Officially starts at 7:00 pm but come earlier if you can.

Friday April 29<sup>th</sup> arrive at the Scott building at the Fairgrounds between 10:00 and 10:30 am. Wear comfortable shoes and bring gloves in case they are needed.

Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>. The building opens at 7:00 am for the vendors to complete setup. The show opens at 9:00 am and closes at 5:00 pm.

Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup>. The building opens at 8:00 am and the show opens at 9:00 am. The show closes at 5:00 pm, followed by tear down and return of materials to the Clubhouse. Some will remain at the building until all the vendors are gone and the building is turned back over to the Fairgrounds staff.

There will be four layouts displayed at the show.

North Raleigh will bring a TTrak layout.

Steve Wills will have the Lego layout.

The Atlantic Coast S Gaugers will have a small layout.

The East Carolina Railroaders from Greenville will bring their O gauge layout.

c. Additional Old Business

John Mezera reported that he is working with Steve's Tees in Wake Forest on a new shirt order for the Club. He needs a DST file from which to create the logo. If he has to create a new file, the charge will be \$35.00. Once the file is in hand, we can proceed to the next step of actually pricing the products.

10. New Business

a. Layout Donations Recently Received to be Prepped for the Fall Show

We have received donations of both an N scale and an HO scale layout that can be fixed up and sold at the Fall show. The N scale layout is currently in the shop and the HO layout is in storage at this time. There will be some upcoming work sessions to make these two layouts sale worthy.

b. Report From the Nominating Committee for the Upcoming Election

George Lasley reviewed the election process.

The Nominating Committee makes their recommendations tonight.

We will take additional nominations from the floor if there are any.

Nominations will be closed tonight.

Ballots, if needed, will be mailed out.

The election takes place at the May Membership meeting.

The officer terms begin in June.

Richard Calfee gave the report from the Nominating Committee.  
The committee recommended that the existing officers and one At Large Board member whose term has expired remain the same for next year.  
For President, John Spach  
For Vice President, Wayne Aiken  
For Secretary, Tom Garren  
For Treasurer, Mike Keelean  
For the At Large Board Seat, Bob Witwer

There were no additional nominations from the floor.

George Lasley made a motion to close the nominations. It was seconded by John Wallis and passed unanimously.

George Lasley verified since all positions are unopposed, we can vote the slate into office at the May meeting by acclamation and not have to use ballots.

c. Additional New Business

Randy Foulke asked if there was interest in a group going to Burlington for a tour of the Tichy Train Group's facilities. Several members indicated interest. Randy will follow up with Don to get more details.

Randy is also going to the trains show at Spencer on May 14<sup>th</sup> and wants to see if there is interest in a group from the Club attending. It is believed that the trolley should be running from the station to the Spencer shops.

11. Program

Pete Donofrio presented a very interesting program on the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Limited.

12. Adjournment of Meeting

A motion was made by George Lasley to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.