

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022**

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 pm by Ken Howard.

2. Review of Progress for May

During the month of May we have met the two main goals set forth for the committee.

- a. The two modules have been removed from the existing layout and the layout mainlines are operational.
- b. The modules in Bob Witwer's storage unit have either been moved to the Clubhouse for use in the expansion or scrapped.

We are now ready to begin construction.

3. Problems Identified

Some end joints are not level between the modules now joining to the end modules. In some cases, there is a millimeter of height difference at the railhead between the modules. This needs to be fixed before the open house on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

John Spach suggested a temporary fix with shims to fix the problem for the open house.

It was suggested that we have a work session on Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup> after breakfast to address two problems.

- a. Fix the vertical alignment problem between the end and side modules. This will entail adding shims to the lower track section to raise them to the same height as the track they are meeting across the module boundaries.
- b. Have someone check power on the sidings to determine where we need to restore power for operation. This will involve using a multimeter to check for power availability on the sidings and noting and fixing the ones needing work.

4. Future Needs

The next item needing attention is to prepare the donated modules for use in the expansion. This will entail smoothing the tops down to an acceptable point where the modules can be used.

A discussion was held to determine if we want to put foam on top of the new modules. The consensus was yes - we would like to use foam on top of the modules.

5. Current Needs

With the need for several tasks to be accomplished identified, the following schedule was established.

- a. Wednesday June 1<sup>st</sup> Cleanup and setup for the Open House.
- b. Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> Open House
- c. Beginning June 8<sup>th</sup>, use Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday as work days to prepare the donated modules for use. This will continue until this work is completed.

We also need people to determine what we actually have in wiring on the existing HO layout and make a plan of what we actually need going forward. A subcommittee was formed to do the wiring evaluation. It consists of Bob Witwer, Ralph James and John Wallis.

It was determined that the drawing for the expansion needs to be redone to include an additional two feet along the left side. Ken will work with Peter Ring to get this accomplished.

## 6. Additional Decisions

Several more decision points were identified and discussed.

### a. Roadbed

A discussion was held to address if we want to use cork roadbed on the expansion. It was determined that we do want to use cork roadbed. Ken Howard will determine how much we actually have on hand and how much we may need to buy.

### b. Track

A long discussion was held about the merits of using sectional or flex track for the expansion. This will ultimately be determined as we proceed. It appeared the feeling was toward flex track with the use of ribbon rails or similar tools to help establish accurate curves and maintain gauge. Tom Garren suggested we use spiral easements when laying the track for improved operation.

### c. Removed Modules

A discussion was held about the disposition of the modules removed from the layout. After determining that we don't want to use them in the new expansion, or donate for a travelling layout, it is felt that we should offer them for sale to members. Some members have expressed desire to buy them. This decision will have to ultimately be made by the Board.

### d. Progress Board

John Spach suggested a list of tasks needed in priority order be placed in the layout room. Members with available time could check this list to find the most needed thing on which they should be working.

### e. Casters

We need to determine how many casters we have to use on the new modules.

## 7. Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting will be determined later. Tentatively hold July 10<sup>th</sup> as the date. A communication will be forthcoming once a decision is made.

## 8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 pm.