

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of September 18th, 2022

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm by Ken Howard. Members in attendance included Wayne Aiken, Brock Bowden, Bernie Dawson, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Ted Kunstling, Ethan Quiram, Peter Ring, and Bob Witwer.

2. Review of Progress through September 17th

Ken Howard thanked all the members who contributed to meeting the committee's goal of construction of the extension and one operable main line before the September Open House. A few loose ends need to be completed: i.e. track power lines to the power busses under the layout and connection of a Digitrax phone jack. These can be completed as time permits.

Bob Witwer reported that the inventory of HO engines and rolling stock has reached 350 units. This includes freight and passenger cars, engines and a few miscellaneous pieces of rolling stock. You can identify Club equipment by the three-digit number on the bottom of the cars.

3. Problems Discussed

Discussions were held about construction and track plans and availability of materials to continue our progress on the expansion. Major tasks identified as we go forward include:

- Laying cork roadbed and track for the extension of Main Line #2 into the expansion (Ted Kuntling, Ethan Quiram, and Ken Howard expressed interest).
- Rewiring of the existing layout with the goal of establishing Main Line #3 as the loop that can be isolated for DC or DCC operation (Ralph James is working on this one).
- Extending Main Line #4 from modules 2 and 10 into the extension. This can be broken up into two separate tasks or handled by one team.
- Upgrading available track plans for the extension to guide construction (Peter Ring).

It has become clear that the Club is lacking certain tools, materials, and organization that would make operation and construction of the HO layout easier.

The committee identified the following items that should be acquired:

- Cordless drill – BOG approved a DeWalt cordless drill (Ken Howard to purchase)
- Dymo Label maker – general Club use for labeling contents of storage drawers
- Small digital scale – used to weigh cars and locomotives to match NMRA specs.

Discussions were held about the ongoing need to consolidate scenic materials, buildings, small parts, and other items needed by all Club members. It was recommended that the wheeled carts currently in use in the shop and under the layout be consolidated in the HO room and that members start sorting materials into properly labelled drawers. This can be an ongoing activity for all Club members to participate in.

Discussions were also held about projects that will benefit the operation of the HO layout. A particular problem is the development of a system that will allow repairs to Club rolling stock. The current system of placing cars or engines on a shelf with a stick-

on note has not proven satisfactory. Ken Howard agreed to develop a card system that will allow better tracking of equipment repairs.

Discussions were also held about problems with the existing layout track work and switches. The legacy modules need to be thoroughly inspected and problems identified and repaired. Discussions were held about using push pins to mark locations, but this doesn't identify the problem. Pasting notes to the track has not proven satisfactory either. Ken Howard is developing a notebook with maps of the modules that can be used to identify problem areas on each module. The map will be accompanied by an Excel spread sheet that can be used to record the location of the problem, the specific issue, corrective action required and date of completion. Look for a green notebook in the near future.

4. Future Work Sessions

Because the Club needs to focus its efforts on the upcoming Fall Show, the HO Committee will not schedule any workdays until after the show has been successfully completed.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be scheduled after the Fall show in November.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 pm.