

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of December 5th, 2022

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board

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

Board members in attendance in person 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

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

Members attending by Zoom were Tom Magnani and George Sawyer.

Three guests attended tonight by Zoom. Travis Daniels, Gary Martin and Dillon Martin. This was Travis Daniels' second meeting. He is applying for Senior membership. This was the Martin's first meeting. They have not yet applied for membership.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

4. Treasurers Report

Mike Keelean gave a Treasurer's report. We are in the process of transitioning from one bank to another.

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

5. Communications with the Club

Richard Calfee reported that he has spoken with Barbara Tate from Brookdale Senior Living in Chapel Hill. They enjoyed their visit to the Club and want to come back again sometime as our HO expansion progresses. Richard Calfee will check with Barbara Tate to get permission to publish some photos of their visit in the newsletter.

Wayne Aiken wanted to know the hours for the Club during the Holidays. Tom Garren stated that on the Club calendar, we are not showing hours for Christmas Day, but are showing normal hours for New Year's Day.

George Lasley reported the final count of boxes and flats left to be picked up from the Ken Ross donation. Members will leave the Club on Saturday, December 10th at 1:00 pm to go to North Raleigh and complete the pickup of the remaining items.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Three guests attended by Zoom tonight.

Travis Daniels models the UP in the late 50's and early 60's in HO. He has applied for Senior membership. This is his second meeting.

We also had Gary and Dillon Martin attending by Zoom. This is their first meeting. They have not yet applied for membership.

Mike Keelean noted that Jake Forbes is turning 21 and wants to be elevated from a Junior to a Senior member. This was approved by the Board. Mike will work with Jake to collect the additional dues.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

John Spach asked Mike Keelean what is our next tax event? It is our sales tax that will be due after December 31st.

c. House

There was a discussion about the rubber pads on the floor of the shop and how they are turning up when under a chair. After several ideas were discussed, it was decided that John Spach will investigate getting another chair mat to go on top of the rubber pads.

7. Old Business

a. HO Layout Committee Progress Report

Ken Howard reported that the next HO Committee meeting will be on Sunday, December 11th at 1:00 pm.

The wye is shown on the layout to demonstrate the room it takes. The final location is to be determined.

Ken noted that plans are available for members to mark up and show their ideas for the expansion.

Ralph James continues to make improvements to the wiring to reduce voltage drop in the far corners of the layout and to make the overall wiring more dependable and maintainable. Mains one and two have been electrically separated so a short on one track does not effect the other. For now, mains three and four are still connected. They will be separated at some point in the future.

An NRV HO layout Wi-Fi has been established for the HO layout. Members should not bother the laptop on which it runs. George Lasley suggested we might want to consider building a case for the laptop to discourage unauthorized use or adjustments.

Ralph is also working on a laptop for the test track so decoders can be programmed with JMRI.

Ken reminded everyone that we have implemented the green notebook system for reporting problems on the layout. This systems seems to be working.

b. Funding Requests

John Spach reminded everyone that it is time for the layout teams and others to bring forth funding requests for capital improvement. These requests should be presented by the January Board meeting.

Tom Garren requested funds to buy lumber to build additional shelves for book and magazine storage for the Library.

Bob Witwer made a motion to approve an expenditure of up to \$300.00 for the purchase of these materials. The motion was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously. Mike Keelean will take the lead on getting the materials and building the shelves.

George Sawyer requested the possibility of getting a Lionel legacy system for the O gauge layout. George Lasley mentioned the possibility of obtaining a gently used system.

There is also a need for some O gauge engine repairs. This prompted Bob Witwer to make a motion to allocate up to \$1,000.00 for the purchase of a used legacy system and to facilitate the needed engine repairs for the O gauge layout. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.

Mike Keelean requested funds to purchase an additional power pack for the G scale layout. Since the estimated price is less than \$100.00 no motion was needed.

c. Spring Show 2022 Update

George Lasley is preparing to rework the layout of the Scott building to maximize the number of tables we can sell to vendors. This will limit the space we have for layouts at the Spring show.

George wants to get the flyers for the show printed. To that end, it was decided to set the ticket price for the Spring show at \$10.00 and \$9.00. It was also mentioned to not mention the discount at the ticket sales table. The customer must ask for the discount to receive it.

8. New Business

a. John Spach mentioned that we have two Long Island RR conductor uniforms. A discussion was held to help determine what to do with these uniforms. One suggestion was to sell the uniforms at a show.

b. George Sawyer asked if we were going to have our annual charity donation this year. In past years we have split the donation between the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina and the Helping Hand Mission.

Tom Garren will include an announcement of our donation collection in the upcoming Membership Meeting invitation.

9. Good and Welfare of the Club

- a. John Spach asked if anyone has been in contact with Mike Mitricska since our Open House in September. Since no one has been in contact with Mike, John Spach will follow up with Mike to see how he is doing.

- b. Tom Garren brought up the locker situation at the Clubhouse. Since we do not have enough lockers for everyone, should there be a charge for them for anyone that has a locker? After some discussion it was decided that lockers are only for Senior members. Beginning with fiscal year 2023-2024, a \$50.00 assessment will be added to the normal Senior dues for anyone that has a locker. This was put in the form of a motion by Tom Garren and Seconded by John Spach. The motion was passed unanimously.

10. Adjournment of Board Meeting

As no executive session was required this month, Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.