

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of December 11th, 2022

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Ken Howard. Members in attendance included Rick Calfee, Bernie Dawson, Peter Denofrio, Ken Howard, Ralph James, George Lasley, Richard Nyce, Peter Ring, Tom Tieman, and Bob Witwer.

2. Review of Progress to date:

Bernie Dawson has completed improving the storage and organization of scenic materials under the HO layout as discussed at our last meeting. Individual carts containing plaster, turf, ballast and other materials will be found under the extension.

Ralph James reported that additional lines will be dropped to the power bus on the expansion to improve uniformity of power distribution.

3. Problems Discussed

Discussions were held about future industries to be built, construction, and track plans. While we are still in the planning stages, agreement was reached on what we want to do to complete the Extension of Main Line #1:

- The existing 22” radius curve coming off legacy Main #1 needs to be replaced with a 30” radius curve to meet members desire to run long passenger cars without difficulty.
- Agreement was reached on addition of badly needed tracks to make up trains that are isolated from the main lines to prevent shorting of the layout while trains are being assembled. A plan was discussed and approved to place a setup siding on the main aisle and to put two sidings on the back wall of the extension. These sidings will be powered only by throwing the switches to access the main line. They will be built with an insulating gap in the rails at each mid-point so that only the switch where the locomotive is heading the train will be powered to take the train onto the main.
- Discussions were held about how to best connect Main #2 on the legacy layout to the extension. A plan has been devised to extend Main #2 with minimal use of crossings modifying the outermost siding on Modules 11 and 12. A possible configuration for the new Main #2 including a wye has been laid out on the table with cork roadbed and twine.
- There was discussion of the possible configuration of Main #2 on the extension. While we are not at the planning stage, there was general agreement that Main #2 should have some elevation above or below main table height, and that Main #4 extension could have additional down or up gradient track after it crossed over the legacy mains.
- Discussions were held about the type of structures and industries that we will want on the extension. There is consensus that we should focus on farms and fields, trees and lumber mills and yards, factories, a coal mine and supporting town, factories and perhaps a junkyard associated with the engine servicing facilities.

- We are still in need of a good map to help with future planning. Peter Ring will finish such a map over the Christmas holidays.

4. Future Work Sessions

Work sessions to complete Main Line #1 and begin track work to tap into Main Line #2 will be held on Saturday and Sunday, December 17 and 18, 2022. Work sessions will begin at 10 am. Hope to see you all there.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for January 15th at 1:00 pm at the Clubhouse.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned to the layout room for further discussions @ 1:54 pm.