

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of March 6, 2023**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board

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

Board members in attendance 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

Additional members attending in person were Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, and George Lasley.

Additional members attending by Zoom were Tim Covell and Jerry Davis.

Guests attending the meeting by Zoom included Briggs Bull. This is Briggs first meeting. He models in HO and O.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

4. Treasurers Report

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report. Mike reported that we are getting set up to pay our utility bills and other expenses with our credit card.

We have money coming in from vendors for the Spring show.

Tom Garren made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

a. There is a new pad by the phone for recording phone calls. Members should fill out the pad if a message needs to be left for someone else. The original should be placed on the TV screen, and the copy left in the book for a permanent record.

b. Richard Calfee reported taking a call from a lady who was considering a donation of some Lionel equipment. This has not yet come to fruition. He also took a call from a gentleman needing directions to the Club.

c. Wayne Aiken stated that he forwarded a note from Will Holt to George Lasley.

d. John Spach stated that he has taken over the monitoring and management of the webmaster email account.

6. Committee Reports – as needed

a. Membership

Briggs Bull attended his first meeting tonight.

Mike Keelean reported that we have received an application from Frederick Sparks.

Emma Bradley, a former member of the Club has come by and is considering rejoining.

b. Ways and Means

At this point George Lasley stated that his inclination is leave dues at the same price for the next fiscal year as this fiscal year.

Bob Witwer commented that if we want to move to a different facility, we will have to raise the dues if we are to stay in this real estate market.

c. House

Mike Keelean reported that he has made two applications of weed killer around the building, and we still have healthy weeds remaining.

The new library shelves are still on hold while Richard Nyce recovers from a pulled muscle.

John Spach commented on the condition of the new soldering iron. The tip was in bad shape. Tom Garren cleaned it up and returned it to service. Members are encouraged to learn how to properly use tools before attempting to use them.

d. Development Committee

Bob Witwer reported that we now have information on a building that Randy Foulke found in Garner. We have learned that the space is actually leased, and the rent is around \$16,000 per month.

We are still hopeful to find someone who will donate us access to a building.

e. HO Committee

Ken Howard reported that main two is fully operational. Over the weekend a train was reversed on the wye. At the moment it takes two people to operate the wye. Bob Witwer has built a control panel with switches and LED's to operate the wye from the outside of the layout once some Tortoise switch machines have been installed. Ralph James has adjusted the reversing module, so it works properly, greatly improving operations. We are now ready to begin installing the sidings for the towns and industries along the line and the engine servicing facility. We are also ready to start on the pre-construction for main four to come onto the expansion. John Spach has provided some black nail polish to insulate frogs and track joints. This should help improve performance.

7. Old Business.

a. John Spach noted the problems we are having with use of the new controllers.

We must all take part in making sure our members and guests use these new throttles properly. Randy Foulke has drafted a document to address proper use of the throttles. This document will be finalized and sent to the Board for approval.

b. John Spach announced that we will have a work session on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this session is to repair HO cars, both from our inventory and for sale

items. Examples of the work include new trucks, wheelsets, couplers, and other maintenance items. The session will be from 10:00 – 2:00. Lunch will be provided by John Spach. Please try to attend and make this work session a success.

c. Spring Show

George Lasley reported that we are sold out of tables and now have a waiting list. We have 53 vendors renting tables with 21 having not yet paid. George has verified we will have the East Carolina Railroaders O Gauge layout on display again. We will also have a small S scale modular layout, plus Steve Wills with the Lego layout, and North Raleigh with the N scale layout.

Mike Keelean reported that we will rent a second credit card machine for our shows. This is more economical than buying a second machine.

8. New Business

a. Open House

Our next Open House will be held on April 22 from 10:00-4:00. Members should plan to attend and help greet our guests. It is also suggested that members carpool or get dropped off for this event to free up parking for our guests.

b. Digital Presence

Kelly Darden has volunteered to help with the Club's digital presence. Thanks Kelly!!

c. Mebane Show

A team of four members will man two tables at the Mebane Train Show on Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped that we have robust sales as we did in Thomasville.

d. Club Policies

Ted Kunstling asked about the location of the Club policies. It was suggested that we create a member's handbook and post the policies on the website. To start working on this we will need to establish a new committee to develop a member handbook.

e. Magazine Donation

George Lasley received a donation of magazines from Wayne Olson. We retained approximately 100 to add to the Library.

f. Upcoming Donation

We will be receiving a donation of 40-50 boxes of items sometime in April. This is mostly HO and includes many unbuilt kits.

9. Good and Welfare of the Club  
Nothing to report.

10. Adjournment of Public Portion of Board Meeting  
The public portion of the Board meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.