

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of April 3, 2023

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board

The meeting was called to order at 6:56 pm by President John Spach.

Board members in attendance were Wayne Aiken, Richard Calfee, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, John Spach and Bob Witwer.

2. Recognition of Additional Members and Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

Additional members attending in person were Randy Foulke, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, and Don Weaver.

One guest, Craig Doggett, attended by Zoom. He is getting started in HO and has applied for membership. This is Craig's first meeting.

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

In the absence of Mike Keelean, Tom Garren gave the Treasurer's report.

Bob Witwer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. It was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously.

5. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Craig Doggett attended the meeting tonight by Zoom. He has applied for membership as an Associate member.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. Facilities

John Spach reported that the Clubhouse was cleaned up this past weekend in preparation for the Tuesday visit from Brookdale Senior Living in Chapel Hill. This will be their second visit to the Club.

Wayne Aiken reported that all of the scissors we have in the building have disappeared. Wayne will buy several more pairs of scissors to replace the missing pairs.

6. Communications with the Club

Richard Calfee took a call from Mike Back who wanted to know if we bought trains. Richard referred Mr. Back to Nick's Trains.

Richard Calfee also reminded the membership that items such as eyeglasses should not be left on the HO layout.

John Spach shared several emails that have come in through the Contact Us on our website.

The first is from a mother who shared thanks for our Resource page on the website. Her son likes the page and suggested some possible additions for the page.

Two other emails came in requesting where to buy tickets for the show.

Finally, another email came in from a person possibly interested in making a donation to the Club.

Ken Howard has followed up with Leonard Nieman on a donation to be picked up on Wednesday.

John Spach reminded the membership that we have another large donation coming that is expected in late April.

7. Old Business.

a. Spring Show Update

George Lasley gave a report of the upcoming Spring show. He will deliver the set up list to the Fairgrounds office tomorrow. This will include the number of tables and how we want them arranged, the number of chairs etc.

We are still sold out of tables and still have a waiting list of vendorstotalling fourteen to sixteen people wanting forty or fifty tables.

Tom Garren will send out an email to the membership providing the schedule of events for the show beginning on Thursday and ending on Sunday. This needs to be an all hands on deck event to help make it a success for the Club.

It has been decided that we need to rent a small box truck for the event. The truck should be obtained on Thursday May 4th and returned on Sunday, May 7th. John Spach suggested that Ken Howard and Bob Witwer be responsible for getting the truck.

Randy Foulke reported that our ad for the show is in the April NMRA magazine and Model Railroader. These ads should be repeated next month just before the show.

Ted Kunstling will be boosting our Facebook show ad to increase exposure.

The N scale layout to be raffled off at the show will be moved into the main meeting room where it will be freshened up in preparation for the raffle.

b. Election of Officers

A motion was made to open the nominations for the upcoming election of officers and one at-large Board member and to charge the Nominating committee to propose a slate of nominees at the April Membership meeting. The motion was made by Bob Witwer and seconded by Richard Calfee. The motion was passed unanimously.

c. HO Layout

Ken Howard reported that the wye is now fully functional. Switch four needs to be reinstalled and one light on the control panel needs to be replaced.

People are still not using the green book to report track problems. Instead, they are telling Ken and expecting the problem to be fixed.

Construction will be started soon on the main four expansion.

Planning needs to be completed for the buildings serving the industries on the layout.

At the last HO Committee meeting the document was finalized that states the rules for use of the Club-owned throttles. A copy has been posted at the entrance to the HO layout room.

John Spach reported that the problems we have been experiencing with running DC only engines on 00 have been identified as a problem within our DCS 240 command station. Digitrax has been contacted, and the command station is being returned to them for repair.

In the meantime a DCS 100 has been installed on the HO layout. This unit is working fine but has a smaller number of slots for locomotives. It is imperative that users dispatch their loco number when they are through running to free up the slot in the command station.

Ken Howard has updated and posted the closing procedures for the Clubhouse. It is especially important to make sure the power strips are turned off in the shop. Make sure all soldering irons are turned off.

8. New Business

Trip to Spencer

Randy Foulke gave a report on the Club outing to the NC Transportation Museum on April 28th. He will have Tom Garren send out an email to the membership outlining the information needed by Randy to help make the trip a success.

9. Good and Welfare of the Club

George Lasley reported that NS is in negotiations to make Saluda grade a hiking trail.

George Lasley further reported that the paper mill in Canton, NC is still in production at this time, keeping rail traffic alive on the Murphy Branch.

10. Adjournment of the Board Meeting

Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.