

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of May 18, 2023

1. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 pm by President John Spach.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Clif Kelly.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance and on Zoom

Members attending in person were Wayne Aiken, Jake Forbes, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, Mike Marsh, Larry Martin, Adam Servas, Alan Servas, John Spach, Don Weaver, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom were Ed Bottum, Tyler Cotterell, Tim Covell, Stephen Dahlem, Jerry Davis, Pete Donofrio, Mike Garver, Jimmy Hall, George Sawyer, and John Wallis.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

Guests attending in person were Haydon Harrison and Don McPherson.

Guests attending by Zoom were Kevin Bui, James Carpenter, Daniel Chou, Gary Martin, Dillon Martin, and Mike Poulin.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

George Lasley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

5. Treasurers Report

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report.

Tom Garren made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

6. Communications with the Club

John Spach reported that several messages left on the phone have been contacted. Most wanted directions to the Club.

7. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Tonight we had three people eligible to be voted into the Club: Daniel Cho, Haydon Harrison, and Don McPherson. Daniel and Haydon have applied to become Associate members, and Don has applied to become a Senior member.

George Lasley made a motion to suspend the rules and accept these members by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.

Daniel Chou is from Richmond, VA. He is into N and HO scale.

Don McPherson is into HO scale.
Haydon Harrison is into Marklin, 3-rail HO.

Mike Keelean explained the lock box in the Library for purchases, dues, etc.
John Spach reminded everyone the dues are now due for the new fiscal year that begins on June 01.

b. Ways and Means

George Lasley reported that dues for Fiscal 2023 – 2024 will remain the same as they have been for the last two years

c. Facilities Committee

Mike Keelean reported that he needs between \$150.00 and \$200.00 to obtain materials to expand the shelves in the hall.

There has been no progress on the shelves planned in the Ladies room for Library expansion.

8. Old Business

a. HO Committee Report

Ken Howard reported that the HO layout has been experiencing operational problems with the DCS 100 while our DCS 240 command station is out for repairs. At this time the DCS 100 is operational.

John Spach reported that the DCS 240 is still at Digitrax being repaired.

Ken Howard also noted that the next HO Committee meeting will be on Sunday, May 21st at 1:00 pm.

b. Establishment of NRV Rules Committee

John Spach reported that at the recent open house, we had four of our new throttles damaged. He is establishing a new committee, The NRV Rules committee, to develop a set of operational rules and procedures for each layout at the Club, rules governing special events such as open houses, care and maintenance of each layout, facilities upkeep and maintenance, visitor relations, Club sales material, shop use care and maintenance, Library protocols, and any other section that appears to be appropriate for inclusion. This is to be a framework only at this time, with further work needed for individual sections. The committee may be expanded after the framework is developed to expedite the completion of each section. The committee is charged to develop the framework and present it to the Board at their August 2023 meeting. Individual sections will be developed, approved and modified independently of each other. The final product will be the operations manual for the Club and will be distributed to each member. The manual will be revised as needed and updates presented to the members. All members will be bound to abide by these regulations. Once the committee has completed their work, the rules book will be presented to the Board for approval.

Several members stated that this action is needed at the Club. There was also concern that if this action goes too far, it will take all the fun out of the Club.

Members of the committee will represent each of the layouts plus one Board member and John Spach. The members of the committee are:

Don Weaver for O gauge

John Kuchnia for S scale

Randy Foulke for HO

Bernie Dawson for N scale

John Wallis at Large

Tom Garren for the Board

John Spach

This was followed by a discussion about throttles and their availability. Members were reminded that there were four new throttles damaged at the last Open House. It is recognized that in some clubs members are required to furnish their own throttles. It was further pointed out that members can use their smart phone with specific apps as throttles. John Wallis noted there is Wi Throttle for iPhones and Engine Driver for Android phones. Work will continue to improve the throttle situation.

John Spach also noted that we need to take better control of the layouts at events such as open houses. We will probably establish a position of Dispatcher or Train Master to manage the layout during the event to assure that more people get run time and our guests have a good time.

c. Spring Show

George Lasley reported that he is very happy with the show.

It appears that the Fire Marshall has visited the Fairgrounds and wants to assure that no Exit doors are blocked by tables.

We are still waiting for the final bill from the Fairgrounds.

Don Weaver asked if we had any problems with the signs at the Spring show.

Tom Garren reported that we had no problems with our signage at the Spring show. Tom also commented that the new larger signs worked well and were visible from a good distance. They should give us good service for years to come. We did have a weight bucket run over at the Fall show last year.

d. Development Committee

Ted Kunstling has drafted a letter to the Dix Park people to explore the possibility of our Club moving to a building on the Dix Park campus.

Bob Witwer has noted a building in the Carpenter area to be explored. This is an old structure that would require a great deal of work to become usable. The investigation will continue.

Wayne Aiken mentioned that Gene Sing had suggested the possibility of getting some land in a park.

9. New Business

- a. Mike Keelean brought up several items. First, he requested funds to repair a board in a nice locomotive that was recently donated to the Club. The estimated cost of this repair is \$150.00 - \$200.00.

We need to get the materials needed to expand the shelving in the hall.

He also noted that we need a good track cleaner for the G scale layout.

These requests resulted in several motions.

First, George Lasley made a motion to allocate up to \$200.00 for the board needed to repair the locomotive. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

Second, Tom Garren made a motion to approve up to \$200.00 for the purchase of shelving materials needed to expand the shelving in the hall. The motion was seconded by Adam Servas and passed unanimously.

Bob Witwer made a motion to approve up to \$500.00 to purchase a used G scale track cleaner. The motion was seconded by Jake Forbes and passed unanimously.

- b. Next, there was a discussion of moving storage shelves for HO equipment from the front of the room to the back near the staging tracks. This would be for Club equipment. Shelves for the storage of member's equipment will remain at the front of the room. The action will give clear delineation between Club equipment and member equipment.
- c. Wayne Aiken pointed out that we have a new supply of duplicate magazines at the Clubhouse.
- d. Ken Howard asked for additional photographs from the Spring show. He will be continuing his article on the show in the next Whistle Post and can use additional pictures.

10. Show and Tell

Jake Forbes showed three NRV HO scale steam engines. He is working to get them all DCC equipped and sounded.

George Lasley left some flyers from the B&O museum as well as other points of interest in the West Virginia and Maryland area.

11. Program

Tom Garren presented a program entitled “Saluda Grade, an Introduction and Overview”.

12. Adjournment

Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.