

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of June 5, 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, 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 Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, and Don Weaver.

Two guests, Paul and Brennon Smith attended in person. Three guests attended by Zoom, Mike Poulin, Steven Delgrosso and Caleb Taylor.

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 and reported that many members have already paid their dues.

John Spach reminded everyone to get their dues in by the end of June.

John Spach also suggested that everyone that uses Amazon select NRV as their preferred non-profit. This will give the Club donations from Amazon.

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

Ted Kunstling reported that the assistant mayor of Raleigh is out of town. We are awaiting (his/her?) return for more information on the Dix property.

John Spach has talked to Bachman about service on one of our locomotives. It is expected to be completed in about three weeks.

John Spach also reported that he is still working a donation from Gary Carlson. This is expected to be 20-25 boxes of items. He will check back again around July 4th.

Ken Howard will follow up with Leonard Nieman to arrange the pick up of the remaining items in that donation.

Wayne Aiken reported that Gene Sing has donated 100 plastic magazine holders to the Club.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

We have two applicants for membership who can be voted on at the June 15th meeting. They are Mike (Milo) Poulin and Brennon Smith. They have both attended two meetings as of tonight.

Two other applicants, Steven DelGrosso and Caleb Taylor have attended one meeting and will be eligible for membership if they attend the June 15th Membership meeting.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. Facilities

Mike Keelean reported that the new shelves have been completed in the hall. This will allow for the display of more items for sale. The next shelving project will be the addition of shelves to allow for Library expansion.

Mike Keelean also reported that there are two lockers available for Senior members that may want to rent them.

John Spach mentioned that the carpet needs to be cleaned again. Mike Keelean will take care of getting this done.

John Spach stated that we need to have a short work session to complete the repair of the rubber floor pads in the Shop. He further requested that someone donate a chair mat for the area of the Shop near the test track.

It is also requested that we all work together to keep the Shop clean and organized. When you are through using a tool please return it to the proper storage space.

Ken Howard reported a new procedure for handling bad-order cars. Bad-order cars should now be placed in blue Athearn boxes with a filled-out card that have been made available.

7. Old Business.

a. HO Committee

Ken Howard gave a report on the progress of the HO committee. He reported shelving has been moved to the back of the layout room to make the shelves more convenient for use with the staging tracks. There is now no reason to stage a train on the main.

There was an HO work session on May 31st. During this session 250 cars were examined. Eighteen cars were designated for disposal and 87 more are in for repair. We are missing two engines and nine cars. The engines are an FEC switcher and a Southern E8. There are also nine pieces of equipment that are not in the Club

inventory. A note will be placed in the Whistle Post to remind members to mark their personal equipment.

At the last HO committee meeting the plans were finalized for the industrial area. Randy Foulke is working on a list of materials that will need to be purchased to complete this portion of the expansion.

Throttles are still being left on the layout. It has also been determined that the new throttles do not charge while plugged into Loconet. It is desired to build a charging cabinet in the Shop for charging of new throttles and storage of all throttles. Mike Poulin has volunteered to build the cabinet once plans have been developed.

The wiring on Mains one and two is clear now. Ralph James is working on completing wiring improvements to Mains three and four. There is still some intermittent shorting near the wye that must be identified and corrected. Thanks to Ralph James and Bob Witwer for their work on improving the wiring on the HO layout.

Ken Howard reminded the membership to use the track cleaning cars on the layout.

b. Spencer Trip Recap

Randy Foulke gave a recap on the Spencer trip. Sixteen members attended. The weather cooperated and the trip was deemed a success.

There are more trips being planned for the future.

c. Spring Show

The final item of business for the Spring show was to determine honorarium for the layouts on display. This covered the S scale, O gauge and N scale layouts.

Bob Witwer made a motion to give \$150.00 to each of these groups. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.

Bob Witwer also made a motion to close the Spring show. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.

Bob Witwer made a motion to open the Fall show. The motion was seconded by John Spach and passed unanimously.

George Lasley noted that the deposit for the Fall show has been paid to the Fairgrounds.

It was decided to hold a meeting of the Show committee to lay out the work needed for the Fall show. This meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21st at 10:30 am at the Clubhouse.

d. Fall Show Advertising

Randy Foulke brought up the subject of advertising for the Fall show. After some discussion it was decided to support three months of advertising in Model Railroader and Classic Toy Trains for the upcoming show.

Bob Witwer made a motion to allocate \$225.00 to fund the advertising campaign in Model Railroader and Classic Toy Trains . It was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

e. Boosting Facebook

Ted Kunstling brought up the possibility of boosting our show and open house information on Facebook.

After some discussion it was decided to hold our next open house on October 7, 2023.

John Spach made a motion to establish an on-going allocation of funding to fund the boosting of Facebook for two weeks before our shows and open houses. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

8. New Business

a. Rules of the Road Committee

The Rules of the Road committee has been established to come up with a framework for a manual of membership for the Club. Each layout will be represented in the manual. Committee members are as follows:

Don Weaver	O gauge
John Kuchnia	S scale
Randy Foulke	HO scale
Bernie Dawson	N scale
John Wallis	Member at large
Tom Garren	Board

The first meeting of the Rules of the Road Committee will be on Wednesday June 14th at 10:30 am at the Clubhouse.

b. Donated Locos

John Spach made the membership aware of three HO locomotives that have been donated to the Club. Two of them (a UP Challenger and a UP Y3) run very well. The third engine, a UP Big Boy needs, work to run. All three are DC only. After a discussion it was decided to have decoders installed in the Challenger and Y3 and make them available for use on the layout.

Bob Witwer made a motion to allocate up to \$400.00 to have DCC sound decoders installed in the Challenger and Y3 locomotives. The motion was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

c. Decoders for Donated Engines

A discussion was also held on the idea of keeping a stock of non-sound decoders for installation on donated DC locomotives that are within our capability to install.

Bob Witwer made a motion to approve up to \$250.00 for the purchase of ten decoders. The motion was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

This purchase will be made only after Randy Foulke examines some decoders that he may wish to donate to the Club.

f. Hats and Shirts

Interest has been expressed by new members to get hats and shirts with the Club logo. Randy Foulke has volunteered to investigate the details with a vendor and report back to the Board.

g. G Scale Track Cleaner

Mike Keelean reported that the used G scale track cleaner we purchased failed and has been returned for a refund. He noted that before it quit running it did a great job of cleaning a track that we have been unable to clean for years. With all this in mind prices for a new LGB track cleaner for G scale will be researched. George Lasley will investigate the local price and Randy Foulke will investigate some of our mail-order dealers. Once obtained the prices will be evaluated and a decision made by the Board.

h. Brick Universe

Ken Howard reminded everyone the Steve Will is looking for help manning his Lego layout at Brick Universe. The event dates are June 23-25. If you are interested in helping Steve, free admission, and also helping promote the Club please contact Steve Wills at gltterstim@aol.com.

It was also pointed out that we need to get more flyers and stickers printed. John Spach has volunteered to coordinate this task.

i. Org Chart

John Spach shared the latest version of the Club org chart reflecting all our committees and their members.

j. Library Expansion

Mike Keelean requested funds for the materials needed to build the new shelves for the library expansion.

Tom Garren made a motion to approve expenditures of up to \$400.00 for the materials needed for new library shelves. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

9. Adjournment

Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.