

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of May 21, 2023

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 pm by Ken Howard.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance and on Zoom

Members attending in person were Wayne Aiken, Alan Bradley, Dan Egy, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Ralph James, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, Collin Martinko, Don Weaver, and Bob Witwer.

3. Review of Progress and Next Steps

Now that the Spring show is behind us it is time to go back to work on the HO layout.

There are materials needed to complete the expansion.

Members need to use the make up tracks. We need to make every effort to encourage the use of these new tracks.

The yellow cabinet should be located to the back of the layout near the air conditioner. This will better separate the Club cars from cars belonging to members.

Randy Foulke suggested that we change the members rack to one with glass doors.

Collin Martinko asked if our inventory is too big. This led to a discussion about the Club rolling stock. Several items were identified:

Cull the existing Club inventory. Make sure equipment on the shelves is in good running condition.

Make it clear where bad-ordered cars should be stored.

Have a work session to fix problems found with our rolling stock.

Bob Witwer suggested a work session after a Wednesday breakfast. The first work session will be at 10:30 am on May 31, 2023. The group work session will review the equipment and its condition and recommend further actions for repair, upgrade, or disposal.

Additional sessions will be scheduled for Wednesdays after breakfast. This will allow for work to be done on the layout with minimum disruption to those running trains.

Ralph James explained why the wye does not work for DC locomotives. There are some possible solutions for this which include power sections instead of power routing through the switches.

Only Ralph James and Bob Witwer are checked out on reworking the legacy wiring.

This led to a discussion that suggested we state we are a DCC layout and are not making special provisions for DC only locomotives. The option of running on 00 exists for DC.

Another discussion was held on the possibility of the Club moving.

The meeting moved to the layout where the plan for the industrial area was discussed. Randy Foulke presented a plan for the area. That plan was adopted with minor changes. Construction can proceed as materials become available.

Tom Garren brought up the possibility of purchasing a new Digitrax DCS 240+. Since the HO layout serves the majority of the members, it is felt that we need a backup command station. Additionally, when not being used as a command station, it could be used as a booster. Tom mentioned that he was going to take this to the Board for approval. It was decided to make it a recommendation from the HO committee to the Board.