

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of June 15, 2023

1. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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, Alan Bradley, Liam Bryant, Jake Forbes, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Scott Hall, Haydon Harrison, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, Terry Luft, Larry Martin, Collin Martinko, Don McPherson, John Mezera, Adam Servas, Alan Servas, John Spach, Don Weaver, and Ron Wertenberg.

Members attending by Zoom were Tyler Cotterell, Tim Covel, Kelly Darden, Jerry Davis, Pete Donofrio, Jimmy Hall, and Tom Magnani.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

Guests attending by Zoom were Dillon and Gary 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 Don McPherson and passed unanimously.

5. Treasurers Report

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report. He stated that dues are coming in well.

John Spach commented that we would like the dues to be received by the end of June.

Mike Keelean also explained the use of the black box in the Library to the membership so that they can make payments for dues or purchases at any time whether Mike is present or not.

Tom Garren made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. It was seconded by Randy Foulke and passed unanimously.

6. Communications with the Club

Don Weaver reported talking with someone who wanted to come in and run some 3-rail trains. So far he is a no show.

Mike Keelean reported we have received a small donation of O gauge equipment.

7. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

John Spach announced that we have a new chairman of the Membership committee, Tom Tiemann. Richard Calfee, Tom Garren and Mike Keelean will remain on the committee.

Tonight we had three people eligible to be voted into the Club: Mike Poulin and Brennan Smith. They have attended two meetings and have applied to become Associate members.

George Lasley made a motion to suspend the rules and accept them both by acclimation. The motion was seconded by Randy Foulke and passed unanimously.

b. Ways and Means

George Lasley reported that he is in the process of reviewing the records for the past fiscal year. Once he completes his review, the other member of the committee will review the records also.

c. Facilities Committee

Mike Keelean reported that the carpet in the Clubhouse will be cleaned next Monday night.

The shelves for the Library expansion have been installed and are ready for use.

John Spach reported that we are currently working on cleaning up and organizing the Shop. If you use something, please return it to where you found it.

John Spach also noted that we need to add some tools to the shop inventory. If members have any specific tools they would like to have added to the Shop, please drop a note with the information about the tool to John Spach.

John Spach also reported that a member had borrowed some tools from the shop and left a note to that effect so we would know. Tom Garren noted that we currently do not have a policy for loaning tools but suggested it could be considered and set up similar to checking books out from the Library. A discussion was then held about this prospect. Collin Martinko suggested that the tools that we are willing to loan should be stored in a specific place so they are not confused with the tools we will not loan. Other comments favored loaning tools for which we have multiples. The item is now referred to the rules committee to be included within their scope of work.

Scott Hall suggested that we have a Shop orientation for members and a way to track those that have completed the training. This would certify that they are authorized to use the Shop.

8. Old Business

a. HO Committee Report

Ken Howard reported that the next meeting of the HO committee is this Sunday, June 18th. He realizes this is Father's Day but asks all who can attend to do so.

There will be a short meeting followed by a work session to install the roadbed in the industrial area of the layout.

Ken also reported that the work on Main 4 has begun.

Ken also gave a report on the HO inventory. We currently have 350 pieces of rolling stock of which 75 need repair. There are 53 cars in the inventory that need to have metal wheels installed. These wheels are being obtained.

Concerning locomotives, Ken reported that not all of our DCC locomotives can be set to their road number. We also have a number of DC only locomotives that will have decoders installed in the near future.

We have nine cars and one engine in our inventory that are missing. We also have nine cars here that are not in our inventory but have no owner marks on them. There are also fifteen cars that will be discarded and added to stocks for sale.

Ken also reported that half the white shelves at the front of the HO/N room are for the storage of rolling stock belonging to members and not the Club. Members should indicate they own the equipment by somehow marking the cars on the bottom. the other half of these shelves will be used to store Club locos .

Ralph James reported that the new command station has been installed on the HO layout. He reminded everyone to dispatch their engines when they are through running them. To dispatch a locomotive successfully the throttle setting must be at zero. Also, if you are running a loco consist, you must first break up the consist and dispatch each individual locomotive. These actions will keep the table in the command station where the engine numbers are stored from filling up and preventing other members from being able to operate.

John Spach stated that he has learned that many other clubs are having many of the same operating problems we have been experiencing. We are not alone.

Thought is being given to creating a group of members that will be trained and authorized to do a reset on the command station when needed.

Jake Forbes noted that his Y6b is finicky and sometimes does not perform well on the layout.

Randy Foulke commented that BLI decoders are also picky and can give trouble.

b. Fall Show

George Lasley reported that he has received lots of inquiries about the Fall show. George would like to put out the vendor letter in the next two to three weeks.

Randy Foulke reported that he is submitting the ad information to both Kalmbach and White River Publications. Members were asked to look carefully at all White River Publications magazines. Their policy is to include ads in titles other than the one(s) we have paid for if room is available.

Scott Hall suggested that we use Next Door and similar platforms for advertising our events.

Mike Keelean stated that Cary puts out an events calendar. He is thinking there are similar calendars for other communities too.

Kelly Darden will continue to work on expanding our social media coverage and investigate the possibility of advance ticket sales for our shows. He was asked to get any information he obtains on the advance ticket sales to John Spach, preferably before next Wednesday when the Show committee meets.

c. Rules Committee

The Rules committee met for the first time on June 14th. Randy Foulke has agreed to chair the committee. One of the deliverables will be an orientation package for both new and old members.

The immediate charge for the committee is to come up with a framework for this package by the August Board meeting.

The members were reminded that the Club is getting bigger and needs structure, while still having fun.

John Spach reminded the members to check out the revised org chart and see if there are any committees on which they wish to serve.

d. Development

John Mezera reported that the availability sign has been removed from a building he has been watching as potential new location for the Club.

John Spach reported that Ted Kunstling is in communication with the City of Raleigh about the possibility of space in a building at Dix Park.

9. New Business

a. Shirts

John Spach asked Randy Foulke to share the information he has obtained concerning shirts and hats, etc. for the Club.

Randy reported that he has contacted one of our show vendors, Mohawk Design, about the possibility of providing Club shirts and hats. The proposed pricing is very favorable.

Randy also stated that although he has made the initial contact, he does not have time to be the point person on this project. John Mezera volunteered to take on this project. More information will be forthcoming.

b. Member Operations

Don Weaver suggested that members try to use the Club layouts during week days rather than the weekends when we have many visitors. He also noted that we need to help the members learn how to power the layouts up and down. This point will be referred to the Rules committee.

10. Show and Tell

Adam Servas presented a Baby Ruth HO car that had been thought to be a track cleaning car. He informed us that is actually an early attempt at providing sound. The car is designed to be pulled behind a steam engine. The cylinder under the car turns by contacting the track and creates a chuffing sound.

11. Program

Ralph James presented a program on DCC and the HO layout. It included some background on DCC, and other multiple control devices then discussed our own HO layout and some of the problems we have encountered.

12. Adjournment

George Lasley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Ron Wertenberg and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 pm.