Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club
Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of July 16, 2023

1. Call Meeting to Order
   The meeting was called to order at 1:07 pm by Ken Howard.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance
   Members attending were Wayne Aiken, Alan Bradley, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, John Mezera, Peter Ring, John Spach and Bob Witwer.

3. Progress Report
   Ken Howard reported that much progress has been made on the HO layout. All of the major trackwork except for Main 4 has been completed.

   Main 4 needs to have the bridge finished including scenicking. The switch onto the grade is installed and the track has been laid much of the way to the end of the legacy layout. The track is throw powered at this stage.

   Work is also happening on the legacy layout. The scenery is being upgraded by several members. Ken encouraged those members to continue their efforts.

   Most scenery supplies are now stored under the HO layout. Small details, such as signs and figures, are in small drawer cabinets in the closet. Supplies will be better organized in the near future.

   Members are encouraged to pick out an existing module or scene, adopt it, and go to work to make the scenery better. The need is particularly great on the back side of the legacy layout where roads are simple black paint stripes on nearly bare plywood.

   Trackwork on the industrial area is nearly completed.

   Update: Bob Witwer has stacked foam to show how the mountain could be landscaped and developed. How it is scenicked is yet to be determined.

4. Main Four
   We need to determine how to deal with the grade on Main 4. Should the piers be encased behind a retaining wall or earth? We have four boxes of retaining wall material in stock. It could be finished with retaining walls or a combination of retaining walls and earth sides. Take a look to see what you think.

   Ted Kunstling asked if we have an overall plan for that area. Answer: not yet.

   George Lasley mentioned that a stub ended branch line with no turning facilities is prototypical. In this scenario, a train would have to back in one direction to get back to

the terminal or to the mine, etc. This was common in the real world. It was generally agreed that there should be no wye or turntable on the branch line.

5. Legacy Layout
Ken Howard stated that we need scenic details on the legacy layout to improve the looks. If you see an area to work on, put your name on a piece of tape in that area.

George Lasley suggested that if a person adopts an area to be updated, the materials needed for that work should be placed in a bin with the person's name on it.

Ken Howard suggested that members volunteer to finish the industrial area scenery.

Work sessions are currently scheduled for Wednesdays to minimize disruption to the layout on the weekends.

6. Operations
It is stated that we want a layout that promotes operations. This could mean a coal mine on Main 4 and a power plant to consume the coal on Main 2.

Ken Howard made maps of the extension available to members to sketch ideas for the mountain area. Start to sketch any ideas you may have.

7. Legacy Layout
There was a discussion about what to do to develop the entire layout.
Ted Kunstling suggested an engine service area.
John Mezera suggested a tunnel.
George Lasley suggested a backdrop for transition from the legacy to the expansion.
Ken Howard noted the limitations we have in area near the air conditioner.
Jake Forbes wants to create a forest on the mountain.

8. Maintenance Update
Ken Howard reported that car repair has been completed. There is some passenger equipment that still needs metal wheels. John Spach will order new wheel.

There is an intermittent electrical problem on Main 1 that should be fixed very soon.

Wednesday's work session will clean the wheels on the Club locomotives. We will also continue to organize the materials stored under the layout.

George Lasley noted there are tubs of used scenic material at Nick's Trains that are very reasonably priced.

9. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 1:57 pm.