

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of October 02, 2023

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President John Spach.

Board members in attendance in person were Wayne Aiken, Tom Garren, 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, George Lasley, Larry Martin, John Wallis, Don Weaver, and Ron Wertenberg.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Scott Hall, Haydon Harrison, Ted Kunstling, Tom Magnani, Phil Michaud, Larry Pearlman, Milo Poulin, and Joe Scales.

Guests tonight that attended by Zoom and included George List, Dillon Martin, and Gary Martin. George List has applied for membership. This is his second meeting.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Bob Witwer made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as submitted. It was seconded by Mike Keelean and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report. Deposits continue to be made as a result of payments received for show tables.

Wayne Aiken asked if we have a PayPal account. We do not.

Mike Keelean also stated that we are planning on buying a second credit card machine rather than renting one. The new machine will be placed at the admissions table for the fall show.

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

5. Communications with the Club

a. Don Weaver reported that we received a donation of more O gauge equipment last Saturday.

b. Tom Garren reported that we received a cash donation from Joe Scales along with two boxes of books.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Tom Garren reported that we now have 101 members in the Club. This includes regular members as well as honorary members.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. Facilities

Mike Keelean reminded everyone that we need to have the Clubhouse cleaned up for the upcoming Open House.

7. Old Business

a. Social Media

Ted Kunstling submitted a report of activity on Facebook. Between September 05 and 27, we had 14,961 impressions. On September 27, we had an additional 485 impressions. Today, we had 100 Likes for our ad.

b. Fall Show

George Lasley reported that at this moment we have four to six tables on the main floor available for sale. TCA has taken all of the tables in the little room. The list of our needs will be delivered to the Fairgrounds office on Wednesday. This list details the number of tables, chairs, electrical drops, and rugs we need, as well as a diagram of how we want the tables set up. There will be no John Deere layout at the Fall show this year.

We have four new signs: two for outside, and two to point attendees to the TCA vendor room. Most of the money for tables has been collected with a few vendors paying at the show.

John Spach reminded the members that after Open House we need to get the HO layout currently in storage ready for the raffle at the show.

Randy Foulke reported that our ad has run in the October edition of Railroad Model Craftsman and may also run in the November edition. Our ad has also appeared in Model Railroader and the NMRA magazine and should appear one more time in each.

After some discussion, it was decided that John Spach will get 1,000 more Club brochures, business cards, and 1,000 stickers printed. Tom Garren made a motion to authorize payment for this printing. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

c. Shirts

The shirt order cutoff date is October 9th.

It was also learned that the shirt vendor may not make the Fall show. This would leave 10 tables open.

A lengthy discussion followed about this issue. One point made was that we need to change the policy on advance payment for tables.

Randy Foulke volunteered to contact the vendor and see what is going on and what can be done to remedy the situation.

Follow up. Randy Foulke contacted the vendor and has worked out a solution for the Fall show. The vendor's son will staff his tables so we will not lose a key vendor at the show.

d. HO Layout

Bob Witwer reported work continues on the mountain on the expansion. Currently, we are fitting the track in to serve the coal mine as well as the track to serve the timber operation and the quarry.

While it is believed that the next HO Committee meeting will be on October 15th, this will be confirmed with Ken Howard.

Folloq up. Meeting for HO Committee is confirmed for 1 pm on October 15th.

e. O Gauge

Mike Keelean reported that the biggest issue for the O gauge team is getting the recent donation items priced and ready for the show. Plans are to have some for sale items running on the travelling layout at the show. Also, some other for sale items may be displayed on the extra table beside the travelling layout. The bulk of the for sale items will be on the Club table.

f. Open House

Clif Kelly reminded everyone to make sure they invite family and friends to the upcoming Open House. He also asked Tom Garren to put out a reminder to the membership about the event.

Mike Johns has secured a group of volunteers to bring refreshments consisting of cookies and soft drinks to the Open House. Ice will be furnished.

John Spach asked that we have bags with several magazines to give out to our guests. These bags should also include a business card and show flyer.

Parking will be a problem. Members are encouraged to car pool to the Club and park on the gravel part of the pawn shop parking lot to reserve our parking lot for our guests.

It was suggested that certain N scale engines not be run at Open House to protect our best assets.

g. Rules Committee

Randy Foulke presented a report from the Rules committee. Here are several key points from the report:

- Each layout chairman should be renamed superintendent.
- Rules for membership will be reviewed and expanded by involving the Membership committee.
- It is recommended we adopt the existing closing procedures.
- John Spach commented on the rules for throttles and the fact that we have not yet developed the charging station for the new throttles.
- It is recognized that this is a dynamic document that will be revised as time goes on.

Bob Witwer made a motion to adopt the rules as presented by the Rules committee. It was seconded by John Spach and passed unanimously.

Randy Foulke gave credit to members that helped develop the Open House rules document. These included Clif Kelly, Mike Johns, Mike Keelean, Don Weaver, John Kuchnia, Ken Howard, Bernie Dawson, and John Wallis. The recommendation of the committee is to not adopt this document permanently as it will be revised after the upcoming Open House. It will, however, be used at the Open House to provide structure and identify revision needs.

Wayne Aiken asked if there are any Covid requirements for the Open House. John Wallis commented that at several national shows recently there was no written policy. If attendees wanted to wear a mask they could but were not required to do so. George Lasley pointed out that there is no current government policy mandating Covid restrictions.

John Spach commented that since we have the Open House coming up we should abide by these rules and see how well they work. Adjustments will be made to these rules after the event. Also, one change is to move all throttles on the HO and N scale layouts out of the pockets on the outside of the layout and let them be distributed by the superintendent during the event.

John Wallis noted that the Zephyr on the N scale layout needs to be moved back and somehow covered to make it less accessible. Bernie Dawson believes there is enough wire length to accommodate this move.

Randy Foulke named the proposed superintendents for each layout. Ken Howard for HO, Bernie Dawson for N, John Kuchnia for S, and Mike Keelean for O.

Randy Foulke noted that the next section of the outline to be developed is the section devoted to Club-owned equipment, facilities, parking, safety rules, etc. This will be followed by the membership section.

John Spach summed up the report from the Rules committee by stating that we use the rules proposed for the Open House and then discuss the entire effort with the membership at the October 19th meeting.

9. New Business

Randy Foulke brought up the topic of making a donation to the Sandhills Central Model Railroad Club or to the Aberdeen station museum. John Spach made a motion to send a \$100.00 donation to the Aberdeen museum in thanks for our great visit there. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously. Randy Foulke will get the specific information so Mike Keelean can write the check.

We also look forward to having the Sandhills Central Model Railroad Club visit us sometime in January or February.

10. Good and Welfare of the Club

Tom Garren reported that Darrell Dennis is beginning treatment for cancer following the removal of a kidney and several lymph nodes. We wish the best for Darrell.

11. Adjournment

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