

# Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

## Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of October 15, 2023

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Ken Howard.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance

Members attending were Liam Bryant, Dan Egy, Jake Forbes, Ken Howard, Ralph James, Don McPherson, and Bob Witwer.

Late arrivals: Wayne Aiken, Jimmy Hall, Ted Kunstling.

3. Under Layout Organization

Ken Howard stated that we need to make order out the chaos under the layout. We have a number of wheeled storage drawers and stationary drawer cabinets. Some are filled, some are partially filled, and some are not used at all. Their contents are a mix of different kinds of materials including scenic materials, plaster and plaster cloth, buildings, construction materials, track, switches, switch motors, and assorted miscellaneous items.

Additionally, there are plastic tubs, cardboard boxes, and debris piles of uncertain pedigree. **The basic issue is that we do not know what we have, where it is stored, and if it is valuable to the Club.**

Therefore, the committee decided to have a **work session on November 18<sup>th</sup>** in lieu of the regular November meeting. The objective of the work session is to organize materials and store them in cabinets and drawers that are labelled to allow easy retrieval of the materials we need to build the extension and maintain the legacy layout. We will convert the Crew Lounge into a sorting and sifting station beginning at 10 am and running until the work is done and organized cabinets have been restored to their proper place under the layout.

Also, Ralph James wants the vacuum taken to the layout (especially beneath).

4. Other Issues Discussed

The Club has been acquiring a number of new, high-quality locomotives and cars via recent donations. Bob Witwer and Ken Howard will take care of numbering these new Club additions and adding them to the HO Inventory. They will also dispose of the cars that the membership decided to surplus in the spring. Ralph James will look into putting Club locomotives into the JMRI computer database.

It was mentioned that the new station platform on the “Raleigh” station has been causing clearance and derailment problems. Dan Egy agreed to tackle the problem.

Ken Howard reiterated the problems with operating the layout, particularly not taking care of rolling stock. Members are reminded to speak up when they observe bad operating or improper return of cars and locomotives to the appropriate shelves.

Liam Bryant reported that he now has a new resin three D printer. If you are interested in getting something printed, talk to Liam. He will have to charge an appropriate fee because of the costs of materials.

5. Planning for the Mountain

It is time to begin laying Track for Main #4 extension. Jake Forbes and Collin Martinko will work on laying roadbed and track. Bob Witwer is going to prepare mounting boxes for the switch machines where the main will start branching to serve the coal mine, logging camp, and quarry. Bob has done a terrific job on getting the coal mine and logging camp branch foundations built.

6. Track Problems

Jake Forbes and Liam Bryant identified additional several track problems at the meeting. These include short track segments as switches 1 and 2 on Module 7.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.