

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of October 19, 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 Ken Howard.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance and on Zoom
Members attending in person were Alan Bradley, Dan Egy, Jake Forbes, Haydon Harrison, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean, Collin Martinko, Don McPherson, John Spach, and John Wallis.

Members attending by Zoom included Ed Bottum, Rick Calfee, Tim Covel, Kelly Darden, Jerry Davis, Pete Donofrio, Tom Garren, Ralph James, Gordon Lucas, Tom Magnani, Mike Poulin, and Tom Tiemann.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom
Two guests attended in person, Alexander and Gary Longo. This is Alexander and Gary's second meeting.
Two guests attended by Zoom, George List and Ethan Marks. This is George's third meeting and Ethan's second meeting.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting
John Wallis made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Alan Bradley and passed unanimously.

5. Treasurers Report
Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report. Money continues to come in for the show. The quarterly sales tax has been paid to the state and the annual income tax has been filed.
We are waiting on the second credit card machine to arrive before the show.
John Wallis made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.

6. Show and Tell
 - a. Jake Forbes showed an NRV 2-8-4 steam locomotive that he has just finished painting and lettering.
 - b. Alan Bradley showed a new diesel locomotive.

7. Communications with the Club
 - a. Ken Howard reported taking a phone call from someone wanting to sell their collection. Ken referred them to Nick's Trains.
 - b. We are still waiting to hear back from Len Neimann about receiving the rest of his donation and from Mrs. Moore about her potential G scale donation.

- c. Ken has also received word from George Lasley that the final 25-30 boxes from the Ken Ross donation have been released to the Club. We will tackle this work after the show.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Tom Tiemann announced that tonight we have three people eligible for membership in the Club.

George List – Associate member

Alexander Longo – Youth member

Gary Logo – Associate member

Tom Garren made a motion to suspend the rules and accept these new members by acclimation. The motion was seconded by Alan Bradley and passed unanimously. Mike Keelean reviewed the prorated dues for the members joining tonight.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. Facilities

Mike Keelean asked for a volunteer to step up and take over the Facilities committee for him. This would involve making the Clubhouse stays cleaned up, the trash is taken out and we have supplies such as paper towels and toilet paper etc. on hand. Collin Martinko volunteered to help. Dan Egy also volunteered to help with taking out the trash.

Mike Keelean also requested someone to help maintain the trees and shrubs around the Clubhouse.

We will continue to look to see who wishes to lead this committee. Hope to make that announcement in the near future.

9. Old Business

a. Fall Show

Mike Keelean reported that we have only two tables available. We have paid our usual deposit to the Fairgrounds for the building, as well as our insurance bills.

Ken Howard reported that we will load out at the Clubhouse at 6:00 pm on Thursday, November 2nd. Ken intends to have everything boxed and ready to load by 6:00 pm. If you can get there earlier, Ken can use finishing up the packing and staging.

Tom Garren will send out an email to members both next week and again the week after listing the entire schedule for our upcoming show activities.

John Spach reminded everyone that Ken Howard will direct the load out at the Clubhouse as well as the unloading and set up at the Fairgrounds. If you are helping unload, please follow Ken's directions to place materials where they will be most needed and readily accessible during the show. Also, do not put merchandise on the tables until they are covered.

Mike Keelean reminded the members that he will have the travelling O Gauge layout at the show. It is basically a 20x9 foot layout mainly featuring three-rail trains, but also with loops for HO and G scale trains.

Club materials, flyers, cards etc. will be available at the layout, the Club table and the admissions table. Please give out the flyers sparingly. We have just received a newly printed batch.

John Spach reminded everyone to wear their Club shirts and badges to the show on Saturday and Sunday.

b. Shirts

Collin Martinko reported that the shirts are expected at the vendor soon and next week he will apply the logo. Collin is looking for a volunteer to pick up the shirt order from the vendor in Lexington. Collin will then distribute the shirts to those that ordered them.

Additional shirt orders will be coordinated on a perhaps a quarterly basis. The exact date is yet to be determined.

c. Brookdale Visit

Ken Howard gave report on the visit from the residents from Brookdale Senior Living in Chapel Hill. We had twelve people visit the Club this time. They all seemed to enjoy their visit and visited with members here hosting the event. Another visit will be scheduled in the March timeframe.

d. Open House

John Spach reported on our Open House that was held on October 7th. This is probably the most successful Open House we have ever held. It is estimated that we had over 235 people come through the Club that day. We also had 39 or 40 members working to support the event. Club sales and donations were brisk.

Thanks to the new rules that have been created and their implementation by Randy Foulke, the HO layout operation had a very smooth running day.

We got two applications for membership and 15 RFI forms submitted for more information.

Thanks go out to Ted Kunstling who promoted the event very successfully on Facebook.

e. HO Committee Report

Ken Howard reported the committee met on October 15th and discussed a number of operational problems and rules. Also, the group talked about the layout design for the coal mine, timber operation, and quarry. The track is being installed to the coal mine by Collin Martinko, Jake Forbes, and Liam Bryant. Bob Witwer is finishing the bench work so the track can be installed.

The next HO committee meeting will be on November 18th. It will be a work session from 10:00 am until closing. The time will be used to organize the materials stored under the layout, so they be more readily located and used when needed.

Work is being done to catch up on some track issues on the legacy layout. The green book for reporting track problems is back in use. Dan Egy has fixed some track problems on module seven.

Members are requested to handle rolling stock carefully, including when the cars are put back on the shelf. Do not stack cars on top of one another. If you see someone else doing this, please call them on it. We need to reduce the damage we are incurring to our rolling stock.

There is a new locked cabinet on the wall near the back of the HO layout. It contains our best engines. These are to be run with a degree of care by trusted members. John Spach and Ken Howard have keys to the cabinet.

Ken Howard also stated that we still have an issue of people throwing switches and not returning them to the normal position. This can cause multiple problems and potential equipment damage. When shutting down the layout, make sure the switches are set to the main. Also, use the staging tracks at the rear of the layout.

Make sure we keep the Club operating. Treat all the equipment as if it is your own.

John Spach suggested that we not allow visitors to go on the back side of the HO or N scale layouts unless they are escorted. This also goes for the Shop. No visitors unless escorted. Ralph James suggested using chains and signs to block access to the restricted area.

Also, we should not do work on a guest's locomotive more than changing the number. The risk is too great.

10. New Business

None tonight.

11. Program

Jake Forbes presented a brief history of the Neuse River Valley Railroad.

12. Good and Welfare of the Club

Collin Martinko reported that Adam Servas is in the hospital. We will send a get well card signed by members.

13. Adjournment

Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Tom Magnani and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.