

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of November 06, 2023**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President John Spach.

Board members in attendance in person were Wayne Aiken, Richard Calfee, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, 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, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, John Wallis, and Don Weaver.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Tim Covell, Haydon Harrison, George List, Tom Magnani, and Jack Rouviere.

Guests tonight that attended by Zoom and included Kevin and Harrison Bui, Dillon Martin, and Braylan Teague. Per Kevin, this is Harrison's second meeting.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

4. Treasurers Report

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report. While final numbers are not yet in for the Fall show, indications are that the show was a success.

There was a discussion about the second credit card machine that we have purchased.

A motion was made by Tom Garren to approve the Treasurer's report. It was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

a. Richard Calfee reported several communications with the Club ranging from United Health Care wanting to help with our Medicare supplements, to a person on his way to the show with a car break down, to a person wanting to know if there was a fee for parking at the State Fairgrounds. Another person named Barry wanted more information about the Club.

b. Randy Foulke reported that we have received a thank you note from the Sandhills Central Model Railroad Club, thanking us for the donation we made to their Club. They are also very interested in visiting us sometime after the first of the year.

- c. Randy Foulke has also been approached by the lady from the Ukrainian organization to see if we can provide trains again for their show as was done last year. This was Steve Will's Lego layout. More to follow on this event.
  - d. Ted Kunstling reported that the interactive events for the kids at the show are very popular. Ted has also been approached by a parent looking for parts for a Bachman diesel.
  - e. Wayne Aiken reported that the Greensboro Club has invited us to their open house.
6. Committee Reports
- a. Membership  
Tom Garren reported that he received one new application for membership and three RFI forms at the show.
  - b. Ways and Means  
Nothing to report.
  - c. Facilities  
Mike Keelean reported that we are still looking for volunteers to clean up outside and additional volunteers to help keep the Clubhouse clean and supplies stocked.
  - d. Social Committee  
Randy Foulke reported that a dinner is being planned sometime in January or February that will include wives, significant others, etc. The committee is also working on tours of both the Greensboro and Golden East clubs.

We have programs planned for our Membership meetings through March.

7. Old Business
- a. Rules Committee  
Randy Foulke reported that the Rules Committee met on October 25 and updated the operating rules for the N and HO scale layouts. The main points updated were the requirement to operate at prototypical speeds and the dispatcher for each layout will distribute and taking back the throttles.
- Ken Howard made a motion to approve the updated rules. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.
- The next area for development of the rules is the orientation for new members and development of specific orientation for each layout. Input will be requested from each layout committee to help develop the content of this section.

John Spach suggested that the Rules committee move quickly on developing the concept of the assignment of a sponsor for each new member. Randy Foulke noted that we will need volunteers to take on this duty.

The Rules committee is also discussing requiring members to have their own throttles. This should reduce the damage we are currently encountering on the new throttles. Wi-Fi throttle may be used with a cell phone to operate the layouts.

John Spach suggested that we have a documented procedure for using the different types of throttles. John Wallis is working on a similar document for North Raleigh. Randy hopes to have something on this by the next Board meeting.

Ted Kunstling asked if we need to share this information with any HO or N scale user. It was noted that the rules will be distributed, however, this is the first group that have been approved.

We are looking to have a cabinet built and located in the Shop so that the throttles can be locked up. Senior members could check throttles out for use and be sure they are returned afterward.

Tom Garren noted that the cabinet needs charging provisions so the new throttles can be charged up and ready to use.

b. HO Layout

Ken Howard reported that work is progressing on the expansion in the area of the coal mine, the timber operation and the quarry. Bob Witwer and Collin Martinko have been putting in a lot of hours on this work. The work has been on hold so that people could devote their time to the Fall show.

November 18<sup>th</sup> has been declared a work day so the materials will be pulled out from under the layout. All items will be sorted and stored so the materials will be easier to find. The work session will begin at 10:00 am and continue until completed.

Ken Howard also stated that use of the reporting process is getting better to identify problem track areas. If an item is reported, it will be fixed.

John Spach commented that he has enlisted the help of two of our younger members to be the Yard Police. Their responsibilities are to keep the storage racks for our rolling stock in order and neatly stored.

c. O Gauge Layout

Don Weaver reported that they have received a donation from George Lasley of a high voltage transmission tower. This will be installed soon. One switch that has become problematic will be repaired.

Ralph James and Mike Keelean are pursuing wiring changes that will allow both DCS and TMCC to run on several tracks for both the fixed O gauge layout as well as the travelling layout.

d. S Gauge Layout

John Spach reported that we have a new leader on the S gauge layout. George List, one of our newer members, has taken on this task. He will be working with Ralph James to improve the wiring and operation of the S gauge layout. Thanks George.

e. Fall Show

George Lasley reported that we had 2150 paid admissions at the show and most vendors were happy.

There were a few no shows, three vendors that backed out at the last minute due to illness and or work requirements. After some discussion about what level of refund, if any, to make John Spach suggested a 50% refund. This was put in the form of a motion by Bob Witwer, seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously. George will try to contact the other no shows and bill them.

It was determined to have a meeting of the Show committee at 7:00 pm on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Tom Garren will send out meeting notices to the committee members.

Ted Kunstling raised concern about people wanting to reserve tables at our shows on Facebook. These requests should be referred to our website for the form and/or to George Lasley for personal contact.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Ken Howard to make an honorarium payment to three of the layouts that displayed at the show. This included the East Carolina Model Railroaders, The Central Carolina S scale layout team, and the North Raleigh N scale club. The motion was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously.

f. Spring Show

George Lasley announced that the Expo Building is available on the weekend of our Spring show. A very lengthy discussion ensued about moving the Spring show from the Scott building to the Expo building. After much discussion a motion was made by John Spach and seconded by Bob Witwer to ask the Fairgrounds to hold the building for us for

up to ten days. This time will give the Board time to run some projections and determine if this move is in the best interest of the Club. The motion passed unanimously.

*Secretary note: After some consideration and running several projections, the Board decided to go ahead and make the move to the Expo building for the Spring show.*

8. New Business

No new business tonight.

9. Adjournment

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm and was followed by an executive session.