

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of December 04, 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, George Lasley, Collin Martinko, John Wallis, and Don Weaver.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Logan James, and George List.

Guests tonight that attended by Zoom and included James Carpenter, Bob Millbank, Braylan Teague, and Brandt Wilkus. This is Brandt's first meeting. He has applied for membership.

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 Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report. A motion was made by Tom Garren to approve the Treasurer's report. It was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

a. Richard Calfee reported several communications with the Club such as:

A lady wanting to bring her grandchildren to the Club.

Alexa from Goldsboro club had questions, Ralph James took care of this one.

John Betz wanted form for show.

Amy from Goldsboro lost a book at the show.

b. Mike Keelean shared a card from Jan Helper that had been sent in thanking Don Weaver for helping a family enjoying a tour of the Club. She also thanked Calfee for calling her back and Luke Tomberlin for telling her about the Club initially.

c. Randy Foulke reported contact with the lady from the Ukrainian society wanting trains again at their event this weekend in the Holshouser building at the Fairgrounds.

d. John Spach reported a request that had come through Ted Kunstling from a group to shoot a video in the Clubhouse using our trains as a background. After a discussion it

was decided for many reasons not to allow this project to film in our Clubhouse. To make it official John Spach made a motion to deny this request. It was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

John Spach reported that we have an application from a former member, Gene Sing, who would like to rejoin the Club. He clarified the policy that reinstatements are handled by a vote of the Board. Bob Witwer made a motion to accept Gene Sing back as a member. Tom Garren seconded the motion which passed. Welcome back Gene.

Tom Garren also introduced Brandt Wilkus who has applied to be an Associate member. He models in HO and likes New York Central. This is Brandt's first meeting.

Tom Garren further reported that we have one more person eligible for membership at the December 21st meeting. Harrison Bui, has applied to be a Youth member.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. Facilities

Collin Martinko has volunteered to take over the cleanliness of the Club.

John Spach noted that we now have eleven vacuum cleaners at the Club.

John Spach also noted that the president is supposed to appoint a youth or junior member to a non-voting position on the Board. Collin Martinko has agreed to accept this position.

John Spach asked Collin to find a volunteer to help with the outside maintenance at the Club.

Ken Howard reported that Gordon Lucas has volunteered to do woodworking projects for the Club as they are needed. John Spach noted that he has a

John Spach noted that we are having problems with the building not being closed and locked properly when people leave. We must correct this problem. It is a problem of Senior members.

John Spach asked Tom Garren to send the closing check list to all the members. Ken Howard will supply the most recent version of the closing procedure.

7. Old Business

a. Fall Show

George Lasley reported that the Fall show was our best show ever. We will be making some more changes for next fall to get even more tables for vendors. The layouts will be rearranged. Sipping and Switching's area will shrink. They will also be asked to have scenery on all their modules. TCA was very pleased with their room. They will be joining us again for the Spring show.

b. Spring Show

George Lasley presented a proposed floor plan for the Expo building in which we will be conducting the Spring show. The show will take place on May 3-5 with the actual sales to the public being May 4-5, 2024.

There are already 175-200 tables spoken for at the Spring show. However, we have altered the reservation and payment process for reserving tables. No table will actually be reserved without payment. Payment for tables is required by March 01, but we are suggesting payment by February 15th to assure a vendor gets the desired tables.

As for refunds, we will give a full refund until March 01. From March 01- April 01 we will give a 50% refund. There will be no refunds after April 01.

Layouts planned for the Spring show include the North Raleigh N scale, the S scale, the Lego layout and the East Carolina O Gauge layout.

We are trying to get some manufacturers to attend and display at the show. We are also actively seeking door prizes.

Bob Witwer and Bernie Dawson are working to formulate a staffing plan that assigns Club members to duties where they are needed for a specific time. Show team leads should submit their staffing needs to Bob and Bernie. The membership should expect communication from Bob and Bernie concerning show participation.

c. HO Committee

Ken Howard reported that a work session was conducted recently to organize the supplies stored under the layout. The materials have now been organized and stored once again under the HO layout. The shelves and containers that were freed up as a result of the workshop are now for sale to members.

There will be no HO committee in December. The meetings will pick back up in January on the 22nd.

The switch has been repaired on Main 1 near the engine terminal. Ralph James has been working on the wiring and Bob Witwer is working on a switch panel for the coal mine area.

Members are reminded to use the staging tracks located at the rear of the HO layout for making up or breaking down their trains. This should prevent shorts and interruptions to others running on the layout while you are getting set up to run or packing up to go home.

d. N Scale Layout

Bernie Dawson that the N scale team is proceeding slowly with scenery. They have also gone through their engines and have them fixed up. There are now four people working on the N scale layout. Phil Michaud and Milo Poulin are working on under the table wiring while Bernie Dawson and Ken Wesp are working on scenery.

e. O Gauge Layout

Mike Keelean reported that they are working on the upper area and on creating some staging tracks. For added scenery, they have installed wind turbines and a transmission tower. The O gauge team could definitely use help.

f. S Gauge Layout

Mike Keelean also made a request on behalf of George List for the S gauge layout. He requested \$200.00 to be used to purchase parts and motors needed to improve the condition of some of the engines. Mike Keelean made a motion to approve the request for \$200.00 for S gauge motors and parts. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

Mike Keelean also reported that he has started using a stamp on the envelopes in the Treasurer's box in the Library. By filling out the fields on the envelope, you will make it easier for Mike to account for the money correctly.

8. New Business

a. Volunteers Needed

John Spach made it known that we need volunteers to act as second in command as Treasurer and Secretary. Clif Kelly volunteered to help the Treasurer. We are still looking for someone to help the Secretary.

b. Social Committee

Randy Foulke reported that we have volunteers for programs at our Membership meetings through May of 2024.

Randy Foulke also reported that the Social committee is planning an event for members and their spouses on Thursday, February 01, 2024. The event will be at Angie's Restaurant in Garner. Attendees should begin to arrive between 6:15 and 6:30 pm and

plan on eating at 7:00 pm. This will be a plated meal. There will be three entrees from which to choose, Lasagna, Turkey and Dressing or Beef Tips and Rice. Members will be asked to sign up in advance. George Lasley has volunteered to pay the gratuity for the event. There will be more information coming on this event.

Randy Foulke also commented that some layout tours are in the making and look for more on these events in the future.

c. Rules Committee

Randy Foulke gave a report from the Rules committee. The emphasis for this report was on throttle usage. We have sustained much damage to our Club-owned throttles in the last year. It is suggested that we move to requiring Club members to provide their own throttles. This can include suitable Digitrax throttles or using their cell phones by running the WI Throttle app for IOS users and Engine Driver for Android users. Our Digitrax throttles will ultimately be secured in the Shop and used by guests or a member that forgot to bring his or her throttle.

Randy Foulke also encouraged members to dispatch their locomotives when they are through running them. Tom Garren encouraged them to release their locomotives when they are through running them. The dispatch transaction clears the loco number from the throttle. The release transaction does this and removes the loco number from the command station.

d. January Board Meeting

It was announced that the January Board meeting will be moved to Tuesday, January 2nd, 2024 to get it off of the holiday.

e. Advertising

Randy Foulke announced that he is running an ad soliciting members for the Club in the NMRA magazine.

f. Annual Charitable Giving

Mike Keelean reminded the membership it is the time of year when we give a charitable donation to a couple of local charities. In past years we have given to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina and other charities. As has been our custom in the past, Tom Garren made a motion that the Club match members contribution up to \$500.00. The motion was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously. Members may make their donations through early January, at which time the Treasurer will write the checks for delivery to the charities.

g. Magazines

It was suggested that we create bags of excess magazines to give to guests that visit the Club. Wayne Aiken stated that he has several bags already prepared and they are stored near the front door under the S gauge layout. Please remember to give these magazines away as a way to promote interest in the train hobby.

h. Ukrainian Ginger Bread Show

Randy Foulke has once again been contacted about having a train running around a gingerbread village at the Ukrainian show at the Fairgrounds. Like last year it planned on having Steve Wills' Lego layout. Times where help is needed from the membership is December 8th from 5:00-9:00 pm and again on December 9th from 10:00 until 5:00 pm. The show is in the Holshouser building. Bob Witwer, George Lasley and Ken Howard volunteered for shifts. One or two more volunteers will be recruited at Breakfast on Wednesday.

1. Adjournment of the Public Portion of the Meeting

The public portions of the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.

2. Adjournment of the Meeting

Following a short executive session, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm.