

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of February 05, 2024

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 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 Brad Bouch, Bernie Dawson, John Kuchnia, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, Collin Martinko, John Wallis, and Don Weaver.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Steve Delgrosso, Scott Hall, Haydon Harrison, Phil Michaud, and Brylan Teague.

One guest, Schaefer O'Neill attended in person tonight. Guests attending by Zoom tonight were Dillon Martin, Jeff Neubert, and Bob Milback. This is Schaefer's first meeting. This is Jeff Neubert's second meeting.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Ken Howard 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 Treasure's report. Tom Garren made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

- a. Richard Calfee reported talking to Barbara Tate who wants to bring a group from an assisted living facility to tour the Club. After some discussion it was decided to have them come on February 20th. Ken Howard made the request for volunteers to help with this visit. A minimum of six or seven members are required to properly host this event.
- b. Tom Garren reported taking a call on Sunday from a gentleman wanting to know if we were open for people to visit and what are our hours. The information was shared, and Schaefer O'Neill came by.
- c. Tom Garren also reported that we have received a nice donation of quality cars and a few engines from Denise Caparatta, the wife of former member Paul Caparatta. John Spach reminded members that Paul was the person that had shared a technique of using plastic gutter down spout material with end caps and a liner as a locomotive case. This is especially useful on steam engines where the tender can remain coupled with the engine.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Clif Kelly has been working on delinquent dues notices with good results. We should have between three and five new applicants to be voted on at the February membership meeting.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. Facilities

Collin Martinko reminded everyone to remember to take the trash out when leaving the Club, especially if there is food trash involved.

Collin also reported the supplies are in good shape as he just brought in a new supply of paper towels.

Finally, Collin is planning a work session to clean up outside the building and trim the shrubbery and perhaps add mulch.

Mike Keelean reported a meeting with our landlord Tom Fisher. He is proposing a three year extension to our lease with \$150.00 per month increase per year for each of the three years.

Ted Kunstling mentioned that progress in starting on Dix park but realizes that it will take considerable time before anything for us could develop there.

All of the Board is in favor of following through with this new lease. To that end, John Spach made a motion to proceed with this new lease proposal. Tom Garren seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mike Keelean will work with Tom Fisher to get the new lease written up for signatures.

d. Engineering

HO – Ken Howard reported that a project book has been created. This is bound in a yellow loose leaf notebook at the back of the layout on the left hand side. If you have time to devote to work on the layout please use this book to find a project that matches your skillset.

Much activity is happening on the HO layout.

The shelves have been labeled to better organize the storage of cars. Thanks Jake Forbes. Cars of a like type should now be stored together.

The Main 4 extension is progressing.

A new yard is going in on Module 9. Plans are being drawn up allow the makeup of a large train on the inside yard and get it out onto the mainline.

Ken Howard also requested \$200.00 for switches needed to continue work on the extension. A motion was made by Tom Garren to approve \$200.00 in funding for the HO layout. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously

N – Bernie Dawson reported that the N scale committee had its first meeting last Saturday. There are now seven people actively participating on the N scale layout team. Several items were identified as needing immediate attention on the layout. These are some track maintenance and some wiring maintenance. Bernie requested some funds from the Board to pay for the needed maintenance on the N scale layout. A motion was

made by Bob Witwer and seconded by Richard Calfee approve up to \$200.00 to fund these maintenance items. The motion passed unanimously. Bernie noted that they also need to add bracing to the layout legs. John Wallis announced that a raspberry pi has been installed on the N scale layout to facilitate use of Wi-Fi throttles.

John Spach noted that in the next fiscal year a budget will be preapproved for maintenance items on each layout. This will remove the necessity for requesting funding for each maintenance need.

S – John Spach reported that George List has turned the S gauge layout ninety degrees. This seems to work better with the door to the building. Ralph James in working on a power box for the S gauge layout. Tom Garren reported that George List has been authorized to spend \$25.00 to get a new armature for the motor in one of the Club engines. Mike Keelean stated that plans are underway to change out the shelves above the S gauge layout. The new shelves will be twice the depth allowing for more display.

O – Mike Keelean reported that the old shelves from the S gauge layout area will be relocated to the O gauge layout room. They will be used to display items that are on display only. Additionally, Mike reported that several engines have been repaired and some sold and the upper level track on the layout has been installed.

Rules Committee

John Wallis requested that rules of operation for each layout be turned in by February 14th.

Social Committee

A trip is being planned to visit the Golden East Club and their layout. The dinner went well with 35 in attendance.

7. Old Business

a. Spring Show

George Lasley reported that we have two tables that are still available for the Spring show. He has also learned that Lionel will not bring a display for the Spring show, maybe for the Fall show. George will contact Sipping and Switching to see if there is interest in them bringing a small layout to the Spring show. If so, we will request all modules be finished and scened. We also need to arrange porters for the show.

b. Travelling Layout

Mike Keelean announced that the Club's travelling O gauge layout will be put up for sale. The layout sets up as 20 x 9.5 feet. It will include the modules with track and two MTH Z 4000 transformers. Mike Keelean then made a motion to put the travelling O gauge layout up for sale. The motion was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously.

c. Charitable Giving

Mike Keelean announced that we will be providing a check for \$650.00 each to the Helping Hand Mission and the Durham Rescue Mission. It was decided to try to present the checks in person to give the Club better recognition. Bob Witwer will take on this task.

8. New Business

a. New Committee

John Spach announced the formation of a new committee, the Bylaws committee. This committee is composed of Ken Howard, John Wallis, and Alan Bradley. They are charged with reviewing the Bylaws and Constitution and reporting their findings and recommendations to the Board at the March meeting.

b. New Org Chart

John Spach further announced a new version of the Club's org chart has been released. Page one shows the standing committees while page two shows the special committees. The new org chart has been posted on the bulletin board in the hall of the Clubhouse.

c. New Positions

John Spach announced two new positions in the Club. Both are backups for existing officers to help with the work of the respective offices.

Phil Michaud is the backup Treasurer helping Mike Keelean.

Pete Donofrio is the backup Secretary helping Tom Garren.

9. Good and Welfare of the Club

a. A get well card is being signed by members to be sent to Margaret Magnani, wife of Tom Magnani.

b. Services for Tom Tiemann will be held this Sunday, February 11th at 3:00 pm. The service will be at the United Church of Chapel Hill, 1321 MLK Jr. Blvd., Chapel Hill, NC 27514.

10. Adjournment

Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.