

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Membership Meeting of February 15, 2024**

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 Clif Kelly.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance and on Zoom

Members attending in person were Wayne Aiken, Brad Bouch, Alan Bradley, Bernie Dawson, Dan Egy, Jake Forbes, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Haydon Harrison, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, John Kuchnia, Ted Kunstling, Taylor Lang, George Lasley, Paul Lebiedzinski, Terry Luft, Mike Marsh, Larry Martin, Don McPherson, John Mezera, Adam Servas, Alan Servas, John Spach, John Wallis, Ron Wertenberg, Ken Wesp, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom included Liam Bryant, Richard Calfee, Pete Donofrio, Tom Magnani, Collin Martinko, Mike Poulin, and Brylan Teague.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

Three guests attended in person.. They were Brian Heaton, Schaefer O'Neill, and Elliot Susseles. Jeff Neubert attended by Zoom. All of these guests have attended enough meetings to be voted into membership.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Ken Wesp made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by John Mezera and passed unanimously.

5. Treasurers Report

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report. John Wallis made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. It was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

6. Show and Tell

Jake Forbes presented a digital version of a paint scheme for an NRV F unit.

7. Communications with the Club

a. Richard Calfee mentioned one call asking about Saturday hours.

b. Ken Howard reported that we have a visit scheduled on February 20<sup>th</sup> from Brookdale Senior Living. This group has visited us before. We need at least six or seven Club members present to make the visit a success. Volunteers should be on hand by 10:00 am with the guests expected around 10:30 am. John Wallis, Mike Keelean, and Pete Donofrio volunteered to help.

## 8. Committee Reports

### a. Membership Committee

Clif Kelly reported that Patrick Cook, Brian Heaton, Jeff Neubert, Schaefer O'Neill, and Elliot Susseles are eligible to be voted in to membership tonight. Patrick Cook will be a Junior member, the others will all be Senior members.

George Lasley made a motion to accept these five applicants for membership. The motion was seconded by Randy Foulke and passed unanimously.

John Spach explained that dues are prorated for the remainder of the fiscal year. He also mentioned that the new members need to make sure Rick Calfee has the information for their badges. This should have been submitted on their application, but in case any changes are needed, get the information to Calfee.

Mike Keelean explained the black box payment system for the benefit of our new members.

Clif Kelly explained the benefits of being a Senior member.

### b. Ways and Means

George Lasley reported that the Ways and Means committee will be meeting soon.

### c. Facilities

Collin Martinko reminded everyone to make sure the trash is being taken out especially if food or food bags are involved. Also, let Collin know if any supplies are needed. Collin is working on scheduling a group to trim the shrubs and clean up outside.

John Spach reminded Collin to be sure the Clubhouse is cleaned up for the March 2<sup>nd</sup> visit from the Aberdeen group.

### d. Program Committee

John Wallis reported that we have programs lined up through August of 2024.

### e. Social Committee

Randy Foulke reported that the group from Aberdeen is expected to arrive at the Clubhouse at 10:30 am on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Randy is going to visit the Golden East model railroad in Rocky Mount and discuss the possibility of our Club visiting their layout sometime in March or April.

Randy suggested that the Club might want to plan to attend the Amherst train show in West Springfield MA next year. The dates are January 25-26, 2025. The membership will be polled to determine the interest of pursuing this trip. If there is enough interest, Randy will put together a plan for attending this show as a group.

Randy also reported that we had a very successful family dinner on February 1<sup>st</sup>. It is hoped this was the first of many of the get-togethers.

f. Rules Committee

Randy Foulke announced the next meeting of the Rules committee will be held on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> after breakfast. Input from all layout chairman are due so the committee can put together the new member orientation section of the book.

This work will be presented to the Board for approval.

g. Open House

Clif Kelly reminded everyone about the Club open house scheduled for Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. We need members to be present to host our guests. Also, members are asked to donate soft drinks and cookies for refreshments at the event.

This is a chance to show off the Club and also recruit new members. Please participate to help make the Open House a success. It is also a good way to promote our May show.

John Spach reminded everyone to take a copy of the flyer for the open house and distribute it across social media.

9. Old Business

a. Spring Show

George Lasley reported that he has contacted all vendors that have not yet paid for their tables. Two or three have backed out. This freed up some tables so that the waiting list has been accommodated, and there are still a very few tables available.

Sipping and Switching will not be attending as they now require at least 10,000 square feet for their layout.

We need porters for set up on Friday and again at tear down on Sunday. The porters will move vendor items from the drive in aisle to the specific tables of the vendors. No vehicles will be allowed to drive down the aisles between the tables, necessitating help for the vendors to set up and tear down.

Bob Witwer put everyone on alert that we need help from the membership for the Spring show. We are looking for at least four hours from everyone. Expect to be contacted to confirm specific assignments and times.

We also need two people to volunteer to rent the truck for the weekend. The truck will be picked up on Thursday and be returned Sunday night.

A note on the Fall show. We are moving from the first to the second weekend in November. For 2024 we will be in the Expo building for the Fall show; then we expect to move back to the Graham building in the Fall of 2025.

b. Charitable Donation

Mike Keelean reported that our donations and the Club \$500.00 match totaled \$1,300.00. The funds were split equally between the Helping Hand Mission and the Durham Rescue Mission. See the picture in the February Whistle Post of Bob Witwer presenting the check to the Durham Rescue Mission. George Lasley delivered the check to the Helping Hand Mission.

c. Shirt Order

Collin Martinko reminded the members that he will be picking up the order forms for shirts, hats, etc. on Sunday. You have until then to submit your order and place your payment in the Treasurer's box.

10. New Business

a. HO Committee

Ken Howard reported that a yellow loose leaf binder has been created to identify projects that need to be done on the HO layout. If someone has time available to work on the layout, they should look in the book to identify where their efforts are most needed. The notebook is stored near the air conditioner at the back of the HO layout.

Ken also reminded members to use the green notebook for reporting track problems and the bad order card procedure to indicate cars and engines needing repair. The bad order area is at the back of the layout behind Mount Witwer.

Jake Forbes noted that the HO storage shelves are labeled by car type and the Club rolling stock is stored accordingly. There is a need for additional shelves.

Ken Howard noted that there are 300 plus items in the HO rolling stock inventory.

b. N Scale

Bernie Dawson reported the first meeting has been held of the N scale committee. There are now seven members. There is some trackwork needed on this layout, and scenery is progressing. It was noted that a new member of Club and of the committee, Brian Heaton, took the minutes of the meeting.

c. O Gauge

Mike Keelean reported that some of their engines need repairs and scenery is progressing.

d. S Gauge

John Spach thanked George List for turning the S gauge layout 90 degrees. This move gives more room at the front door. Good work George.

e. G Scale

Alan Servas reported that we have a new member to lead the G scale effort, Jeff Neubert. Alan will continue to help with the G scale layout. It was suggested that we need to run the G scale more often to keep the equipment and track in running order.

f. Org Chart

John Spach reminded everyone that the most recent Club organization chart has been posted. Any member desiring to serve on a committee should see the committee lead.

g. Thomasville Show

Ken Howard gave a report on the Thomasville show. We had five members comprising the sales team. They were Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Phil Michaud, John Spach and Bob Witwer. John Kuchnia also helped with O gauge sales. We started with three tables that morphed into seven tables. The day was long but very successful.

Mike Keelean announced that this was the last showing of the Club's traveling O gauge layout. The layout was set up and manned by Mike Keelean, John Kuchnia, George Sawyer? and Don Weaver. Help was also given by Wayne Aiken and Jimmy Hall in tearing down the layout after the show.

This layout has served the Club well, but the time has come for it to be sold. Anyone interested in the layout should contact Mike Keelean.

Our next show will be the Mebane show on March 9<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help please let Ken Howard know.

John Spach reiterated our success selling at one day shows. At this time, we are working the Thomasville and the Mebane shows. We can do the shows in one day with no overnight travel or expenses.

Wayne Aiken announced there will be a show in Greensboro on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

h. 4x8 HO Layout

John Spach announced that we have a roughly 4x8 HO layout that we would like to pass on to a member if anyone is interested. Jeff Nubert expressed interest in taking the layout.

i. New Hope Valley

Randy Foulke announced that the New Hope Valley Railroad will have a celebration on April 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. They are celebrating the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the charter of the original Norfolk Southern railroad and the 40th anniversary of the NHV running trains at Bonsal.

j. Thanks

Tom Magnani thanked the Club for sending his wife a get well card.

11. Program

Jake Forbes presented a program on Norfolk and Western Steam.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.