

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of March 17, 2024

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Ken Howard.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance

Members attending were Wayne Aiken, Liam Bryant, Richard Calfee, Jake Forbes, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Haydon Harrison, Ken Howard, George Lasley, Collin Martinko, Don McPherson, and Bob Witwer.

3. Rules

Ken Howard stated that we need to establish rules and procedures for the construction of anything on the layout. Attendees were reminded that there is a yellow notebook that contains listings of approved projects for the HO layout. New items should be approved and added to the book before anyone begins work on them. Collin Martinko reiterated that if a project is not in the book, it should not be done.

We currently have problems on Main 2 because of unauthorized track work and on the Main 4 yard which is under construction. Main 4 does remain operational.

4. Project Assignments

Ken reported several projects that already have been assigned to particular people:

Milo Poulin will be doing the quarry. Much of the work will be done off site and dropped into the layout when complete.

Pete Donofrio is taking care of the extension up to the lumber facility.

Bob Witwer is taking care of the mine.

Ken Howard is working on the Main 4 grade.

Collin Martinko is working on the industrial area.

Richard Calfee is working on the new village.

Ken Howard is also working on getting the yard out through Germantown.

5. Standards

A discussion was held concerning establishing standards for several items on the layout including whistle posts, signage, signals, telephone poles, telephone boxes, etc. To this end a subcommittee was established to take on this project. Subcommittee members are Collin Martinko, Jake Forbes, and Adam Servas, with Collin serving as the lead.

6. Shelving

Work is underway to have more shelves built to add to those existing for the HO equipment. The shelves near the air conditioner will be doubled in capacity. This will free up some shelves near the front of the room for the storage of more member's equipment. Club engines will be transferred to the new shelving.

7. Rules Manual

It was determined that our section of the Rules manual needs to be updated to include the approval process for construction and maintenance projects. Ken Howard will draft these updates and send them to Randy Foulke for inclusion in the HO section of the Club Rules manual.

8. Misc.

Bob Witwer is working on switch motors, and Paul Lebedinsky will rebuild the framework under the mountain.

Liam Bryant noted that he can 3D print small items for use on the layout.

Jake Forbes stated that he would like to name a building on the layout after his grandfather. He will work with Calfee to see if this can be worked into the village.

Collin Martinko suggested we begin to develop ideas for track adjustments on the legacy layout. Track plans for each legacy module are available in the green book. Ken Howard will add track plans for each module on the extension.

George Lasley suggested that we stock up on cork roadbed. Ken Howard reported that we currently have six boxes of cork roadbed in stock.

Richard Calfee stated that Dan Egy should take all the European buildings off the layout and then donate them to the Club if he desires.

9. Important Dates

Ken Howard reminded everyone of the April 20 Open House and the upcoming NMRA, MER visit.

Randy Foulke stressed the importance of setting the date when we plan on hosting the MER visit. After some discussion, it was decided to suggest to the Board that we be open on Friday, October 18th from 10:00 am -2:00 pm for this visit.

It is important that we do not start a major construction project near the time of either Open House or NMRA visit. The layout should be made as presentable as possible for each of these visits.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.