

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of March 04, 2024**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 pm by President John Spach.

Board members in attendance in person were Wayne Aiken, Richard Calfee, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, John Spach, and Bob Witwer.

2. Recognition of Additional Members and Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

Additional members attending in person were Alan Bradley, Bernie Dawson, Jake Forbes, Randy Foulke, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, Collin Martinko, Schaefer O'Neill, and John Wallis.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Patrick Cook, Kelly Darden, Scott Hall, Ted Kunstling, George List, Phil Michaud, Larry Pearlman, Milo Poulin, and Elliot Susseles.

We had three guests attending by Zoom tonight. They were Duncan Evans, Greg Rehe, and Bob Milback. This is Duncan's second meeting and Greg's first meeting.

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

In Mike Keelean's absence, Phil Michaud gave the Treasure's report. Tom Garren made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

- a. Richard Calfee reported that Don Weaver had talked to an Ann Atkins from Fayetteville who is interested in making a donation of equipment to the Club. This call has been handed over to Ken Howard who has left a message for Ms. Atkins. He is waiting to hear back from her.
- b. Tom Garren reported taking a call from Martin Blackburn from Holly Springs who wants to donate some HO trains and perhaps a layout too. This call has been referred to John Spach to follow up and determine the scope of this donation.
- c. Tom Garren also took a call from a gentleman who wanted to know if he could bring a donation by on a Saturday. He is aware of our location.

## 6. Committee Reports

### a. Membership

Clif Kelly reported that he has been working on delinquent dues notices. For those who have not yet paid their balance, Clif will send one more email stating that they will be terminated from the Club unless their dues are received by March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Clif also reported that we have at least two applicants to be voted into membership on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Bernie Dawson asked how we could get the keys returned from any Senior member that does not pay their dues and is subsequently dropped from the Club. After some discussion, it was stated that we may have the building rekeyed later this year as a security measure. This will require further investigation to resolve.

### b. Ways and Means

George Lasley presented a report from the Ways and Means committee.

### c. Facilities

Collin Martinko thanked everyone that helped clean up the Clubhouse in preparation for the visit from the Sandhills Central Model Railroad Club. Outstanding items for the House committee now are cleaning up around the building and trimming the shrubs.

### d. Engineering

N – Bernie Dawson reported that the N scale committee had its second meeting last Saturday. They have settled on the first Saturday of each month for the N scale committee meetings.

Bernie also stated that they plan to attend the free T track show by the North Raleigh group at the Herb Young Center in Cary on March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. This is a free event that all our members may wish to attend. John Wallis will be there both days with the North Raleigh group.

HO – Ken Howard reported that Brookdale Senior Living had visited the Club again on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Several Club members were present to host our guests and run the layouts.

A track cleaning session was held on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The event was well attended by eight or nine members. As a result of the cleaning, some additional problems were identified with several switches. These problems are being addressed.

A session was held on March 4<sup>th</sup> with Daphne and Tom Garren and Ken Howard to price more HO equipment to take to upcoming shows.

Ken Howard also requested funding for \$100.00. This request was further explained by John Wallis who reported that a raspberry pi computer for the HO layout would cost less than \$100.00. The computer will be used to provide Wi-Fi interface to the layout and allow members to use their cell phones as throttles. John Spach made a motion to authorize the expenditure. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

Ken Howard reported that the next meeting of the HO committee will take place on March 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at the Clubhouse.

Ken also reminded everyone that work times have been established to occur on Monday afternoons, Wednesday afternoons, and Saturday afternoons. There is a new project book in back left of the layout. It is a yellow loose leaf notebook containing information on the on-going projects. If a member has time to donate, please refer to the project book to see where your help is most needed.

Randy Foulke stated that he had recently repaired a lot of trees on the HO layout. Members are encouraged to be careful not to damage the scenery when reaching items on the layout. Collin Martinko has also repaired/replaced several telephone poles. Collin suggests we consider adding Plexiglas in key areas to reduce damage to the scenery.

S gauge - George List reported that the layout has been turned 90 degrees. This has been well received. George also noted that Ralph James has created a power supply system that allows each track on the S gauge layout to run either AC or DC powered trains.

An inventory of the S gauge equipment has been created.

Some surplus S gauge equipment has been identified as surplus and has been released to Ken Howard for Club sales.

The S gauge locomotives now are all in good shape at this time.

O Gauge – Nothing to report.

Program Committee

Randy Foulke reported that we have volunteers lined up to present programs through October. Members are encouraged to volunteer to present a program to the membership.

Randy is working on a trip for us to visit the Golden East club in Rocky Mount maybe in middle to late May of 2024.

Randy is also working on a plan for a Club trip to the annual Amherst show in 2025. More on this later.

## 7. Old Business

### a. Spring Show

George Lasley reported that we have satisfied the requests of our waiting list. He is also in the process of calling any vendor that has not yet paid for their tables.

Bob Witwer asked Scott Hall if he wanted a table for his learn to solder school. Scott replied affirmatively. George Lasley will find a table for this purpose.

Layouts planned for the show floor at the Spring show include the S gauge layout, the Lego layout, and the O gauge layout from Greenville. The N scale TTrak layout will be displayed in the lobby this year.

We still need to have a way to provide porters at the show to help the vendors unload and load. Bob Witwer is still working on this item.

### b. Shirt Order

Collin Martinko reported that the shirt order has been placed. There is a chance they may be ready by the Greensboro show. If not, arrangements will be made to receive the order.

### c. Open House – Nothing to report.

### d. Mebane Show

The Mebane train show will be this Saturday from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. We have four tables reserved for Club sales that will feature a mixture of O and S gauge and HO scale items.

### e. NMRA Convention

The Mid-East Region of the NMRA will have a convention in the area this October. The Club is scheduled as stop on the layout tour. We need to determine when we want to be open to host the NMRA visitors. Either Friday, Saturday, or Sunday could be chosen. We need to make this decision in the next thirty days. We also need to continue work on the HO layout to make it as presentable as possible for this event. Randy stated that it is not necessary for the Club to have refreshments for this event.

### f. Lease

John Spach announced that we have a new lease on our building that runs through 2027.

### g. Rules Committee

Randy Foulke reported that the proposed rules for throttles on the HO layout will be presented at the April Board meeting. Randy also stated that work is proceeding on a procedure for new and existing member orientation. Each layout team for O, S, HO, and N are developing their specific points. Clif Kelly is working on the member section of

the rules book. Randy suggested that the rules developed for an open house be adopted for any group visit to the Club. It was pointed out that a group visit constitutes an open house.

The next meeting of the Rules committee will be on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

h. By Laws Review Committee

Alan Bradley reported there have been two meetings of the committee so far.

There are no changes recommended for the Articles of Incorporation.

The first item of work for the committee is to review and recommend changes to the bylaws. Once these changes are made and approved, the committee will recommend changes to be made to the constitution. These changes will reflect the changes needed due to the bylaws changes.

One immediate change recommended is to change the registered agent for the Club with the Secretary of State's office.

i. Insurance

Alan Bradley noted that the Club has two insurance policies in which there seems to be some overlap in coverage. We have liability insurance for our shows and the Club. We also have liability coverage for the officers and board members. Also, we have a very low amount of fire coverage on the contents of our building. There will be an investigation of what insurance we really have along with a recommendation of changes that need to be made. Comments were made by several members to increase the coverage and investigate adding coverage for water and theft damage. These recommendations will be made at the May Board meeting.

j. eBay Sales

Ken Howard reported that we can now more than five items for sale concurrently on eBay. We are listing high value items or items for which we have no market here on eBay. We are getting more exposure for Club sales by leveraging eBay.

8. New Business

a. ESU Lokprogrammer

Tom Garren brought forth a proposal from the HO committee to acquire an ESU Lokprogrammer for the Shop. After discussion a motion was made by Bob Witwer to purchase a Lokprogrammer. The motion was amended by John Spach to include an ESU HO cradle with the magnetic strip. The final motion from Bob was to allocate \$210.00 to purchase a Lokprogrammer and cradle. The motion was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

b. Nominating Committee

The nominating committee was charged to produce a slate of officers and one at large Board member to be presented to the membership at the April membership meeting.

9. Adjournment

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 pm.