

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of April 01, 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, Mike Keelean, John Spach, and Bob Witwer.

Ken Howard attended by Zoom.

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

Additional members attending in person were Alan Bradley, Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, Clif Kelly, John Kuchnia, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, Larry Martin John Mezera, Schaefer O'Neill, John Wallis, and Ron Wertenberg.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Kelly Darden, Logan James, Phil Michaud, George Sawyer, and Elliot Susseles.

We had one guest, Dillon Martin, attended by Zoom tonight.

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 Richard Calfee 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 Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

- a. Richard Calfee reported no messages had been left on the answering machine.
- b. Tom Garren reported that there will one more visit to Denise Caparatta to help her with disposition of the remaining train items of her late husband Paul.
- c. John Spach reported that he and Phil Michaud had picked up a donated HO layout from Martin Blackman. The layout was originally built by Fread Krauss. Both Martin and Fred are former members of the Club.
- d. Ted Kunstling reported that the Open House has been posted and boosted on Facebook. John Spach reminded members to share this listing with their friends on Facebook for more coverage of our event.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Clif Kelly reported that he has identified several people that will be removed from the Club roster as a result of non-payment of dues. Any Senior members that are being dropped have been asked to return their key. For several new members that have not yet paid their dues, Clif will send one more reminder. Tom Garren commented that the members being dropped for non-payment of dues will be removed from the Club roster tomorrow.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. Facilities

Mike Keelean reported that we have a new drill press in the shop. The old drill press required some repairs. It has now been fixed and will be for sale at the Spring show.

John Spach reported that Collin Martinko has trimmed the bush outside the front door of the Clubhouse.

d. Engineering

HO – Ken Howard reported that the approved work for the HO layout has been divided into nine projects, each on with an identified lead. The projects include the quarry, the coal mine, the town site, the yard, a new connection to the interior yard, plus miscellaneous track work.

There are currently no additional projects for the HO layout at this time, but there is still a lot of work happening on the HO layout.

N Scale – Bernie Dawson reported that their group worked on the N scale layout that will be raffled at the Spring show. This involved scenery work, grass, roads, etc. Bernie has provided a Dairy Queen kit to be added to the regular N scale layout. It will be assembled by Ed Bottum. Brian Heaton is working on adding grass to the layout. The great news is that 100% of the N scale group is participating on the work being done. This is great news.

O Gauge – Mike Keelean reported that the carnival has been wired up and is now operational. It will be on display for the Open House. Several pieces of the circus train are also on display in the room. To be operational, they will need to have the wheelsets converted from two-rail to three-rail type flanges. Work is also continuing on a platform in the back of the room on which to mount the wind turbines.

S Gauge – Mike Keelean reported that George List is determining his needs for additional shelving. Once this has been defined, Mike will help George with the new shelving.

G Scale – John Spach noted that we had a recent G scale donation to be inspected by Alan and Adam Servas to determine what we want to sell and what we may want to keep.

e. Program Committee

John Wallis reported that we have volunteers for programs through January of 2025.

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke reported that we are planning a visit to the Golden East Club in Rocky Mount on May 18th.

Randy is also working on putting together the details of a trip to the Amherst show in January 2025. If we decide to go by train, we need to reserve tickets by October to get a group rate.

g. Open House

Clif Kelly reported that we are on track to have a good Open House on April 20th. We need all members to help make the event a success.

7. Old Business

a. Bylaws Review

Alan Bradley reviewed the major changes proposed to the Bylaws. Once final updates are made, the proposed changes will be read and reviewed at the April Membership meeting and again at the May Membership meeting. At that time, the Senior members will be asked to vote to approve the changes. Prior to the May meeting, the membership will receive an electronic copy of the Bylaws to review.

Members of the Board were requested to read over the changes and make comments and or suggestions in a called meeting at breakfast on Wednesday. Following that meeting, the final version of the proposed Bylaw changes will be prepared.

b. Member Handbook

Randy Foulke presented a draft proposal of the procedures for each layout. This will be used for new member orientation. Even though this is a draft and a work in progress, it is proposed to use this until the final Rules book is available. John Spach suggested that we have a laminated document for each layout and begin to use it now. Phil Michaud requested a revision date be placed on the documents.

A motion was made by Bob Witwer and seconded by Tom Garren to adopt these procedures for layout operating rules until the final version exists. The motion passed unanimously.

Randy Foulke also recommended the Board adopt the previously submitted documents for throttle ownership. This only applies to the HO and N scale layouts at this time. The big change is that new members will have their own throttle within thirty days of

becoming a member. This can include cell phones or tablets as well as older Digitrax throttles.

After some discussion, it was felt that we should make sure the new members are familiar with the throttle options and do not think they are required to purchase an expensive throttle.

A motion was made by Richard Calfee to adopt these recommendations for throttle ownership. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

Randy believes that we are 40% complete with the Members Handbook.

c. Spring Show

George Lasley reported that we still have a few tables and are matching them up with late requests. The Fairgrounds have been notified to the security needs for the show. A second notification will be sent to the Fairgrounds of how many tables, chairs, electrical drops, etc. are needed by April 10 or 11.

Bob Witwer is working with Occoneechee Council of the Boy Scouts to recruit volunteers to be porters at our show. This has been set up on Facebook with a link to Sign Up Genius. If we do not have the help we need from the Scouts, Club members must be ready to assume the role as porters. Members are requested to bring any carts, hand trucks, or dollies that will aid the movement of merchandise to and from their tables.

Club members need to sign up for at least one four hour shift at the show.

George Lasley announced that there will be limited food available at the show.

8. New Business

a. Hot Water

Richard Calfee mentioned that someone is gluing items down on the layout in the area where he is working.

Richard Calfee asked if/when we are going to get hot water back in the building. After some discussion, a motion was made by Ken Howard and seconded by Tom Garren to authorize John Spach to work with our landlord and determine our best solution. The motion passed unanimously.

b. MER Visit

The HO committee suggests a date and time for the Club to be open for the NMRA's Mid East Region convention in October. The suggestion is to open the Club on Friday October 18th from 10:00-2:00. After some discussion Randy Foulke was instructed to relate this date and time back to the convention committee.

c. N Scale Modules

Bernie Dawson reported that several members of the N scale team are investigating building some T-Trak modules. More on that later.

d. Parking Stickers

Ted Kunstling wanted members to be encouraged to use our parking stickers. We have a supply of the stickers at the Clubhouse.

e. Decoders

John Spach requested funding to purchase six decoders two of which are sound decoders to install in several recently donated locomotives. Bob Witwer made a motion to authorize an expenditure of up to \$350.00 for the purchase of these decoders. The motion was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

9. Adjournment

Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.