

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of May 06, 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 Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, George Lasley, Mike Marsh, John Mezera, Schaefer O'Neill, John Wallis, and Don Weaver.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Scott Hall, Haydon Harrison, Ted Kunstling, Phil Michaud, George Sawyer, and Brylan Teague.

We had five guests tonight, all attending by Zoom. They were Zack Bodnar, Noah Bodnar-Nakamoto, Ely Carter-Williamson, Bo Milback, and Dillon Martin. This was Zack and Noah's first meeting and Ely's second 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

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer'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

Ted Kunstling stated a person named Kyle Berner had inquired on Facebook if we would be interested in a donation of a train table. Upon some investigation it was determined that we do not want the table. Ted was advised to let Mr. Berner know that and suggest that he consider donating it to Goodwill.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Tom Garren reported that he will have to verify if Ely Carter-Williamson has satisfied the two-meeting requirement for membership. Tom also stated that he had talked to Bob Slavonia at the show at length about membership.

Bob Witwer reported that he is working with a vendor, Ken Singleton, who expressed interest in the Club.

John Spach stated that Charlie Rausch is interested in getting his grandson into the Club, due to the fact that there are other active young members here.

b. Ways and Means  
Nothing to report.

c. Facilities

John Spach noted that we are a mess at the moment as all items from the Spring show have not yet been put away. This will be completed in the next ten days or so. In the meantime, please help keep everything neat and orderly.

John also reminded everyone to remember to take their food containers with them when they leave, as we now have some flies in the building.

d. Engineering

N scale – Bernie Dawson reported that we have received the two TTrak modules donated to the Club by John Wallis. The N scale group is determining how best to utilize these modules. The current thought is to create a down East tobacco farm diorama on the modules.

HO – Ken Howard reported that the show has taken up most of the time recently.

However, several members are continuing to work on their specific projects such as Paul Lebiezinski is continuing to working on the supports for the mountain, Pete Donofrio continues to work on the lumber camp, John Spach has developed a drop-in diorama for the lumber camp, Collin Martinko continues to work on the yard which is now pretty much operational, and Milo Poulin has the quarry about ready to be installed.

O Gauge – Mike Keelean reported that the carnival has been wired up and is now operational. Also, a wind farm has been installed on the hill. In addition we have received a donation of a Lion Chief Santa Fe set.

S Gauge – John Spach reported that George List purchased an S gauge steam engine that he is donating to the Club. It was also reported that all excess S gauge equipment has been sold. We are now to the point that we evaluate anything that comes in and keep the best for the Club.

Mike Keelean noted that he now understands what is wanted in the form of shelf extensions at the S gauge area and can make that happen.

G Scale – John Spach reported that Darrell Dennis plans to become more active with the G scale at the Club.

e. Program Committee

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

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke around a signup sheet so that we can determine an approximate number of people planning on going to the visit to the Golden East Club in Rocky Mount on May 18<sup>th</sup>. The final time for departing the Clubhouse for Rocky Mount is still being determined. For now the thought is that we will leave the Club around 11:00 am.

Randy has also been in contact with the Goldsboro group. This is a potential future trip.

7. Old Business

a. Open House

John Spach reported that we had a low number of visitors compared with other Open Houses in the past. On the other hand, we had a terrific number of members to host the event. The comradery was great, and we got a couple of applications from the event.

b. Bylaws Revisions

John Spach reported that we had the first reading of the Bylaws revisions at the last Membership meeting. The revised Bylaws are posted at the Club in a blue folder for anyone to review. Also, the membership will receive an electronic copy this week. The procedure will be to discuss and respond to questions and concerns at the May Membership meeting. A second reading will be done, and the Senior members will vote on the Bylaw revisions.

c. Critter Report

As most members know, we had a critter in the ceiling of the building. He has now deceased and has been removed. We need to work with our landlord and get a tree taken down to remove the path to the building for other critters.

d. Spring Show

John Spach thanked everyone that helped at the show and noted that we had a tremendous turnout of Club members to help make the show a success. John received many compliments from the vendors on the porter service provided by Club members during setup.

George Lasley also thanked everyone who participated in the show. We had a record number of vendor tables for our Spring show and had very few no shows from the vendors. George also had good words to say about the porter system we implemented at this show.

George also noted that we received exceptional service from the security guard and the custodian who worked with us for the weekend. This will be mentioned to the fairgrounds office staff. We will also mention the artic conditions in the lobby and what it takes to get access to the PA system in the building.

Several vendors requested that we have coffee available on Saturday and Sunday morning.

We already have over forty reservations sheets for the Fall show.

Richard Calfee noted that he heard many favorable comments from the vendors about the Expo building. He is wondering if we have considered just staying in the Expo rather than moving back to the Graham in the Fall. John Spach responded that we will look at that situation and make the decision at a later date.

Ted Kunstling asked for help on additional social media platforms than just Facebook. Zack Bodnar indicated willingness to help in this area. Randy Foulke noted that we also need people monitoring social media and to be able to make changes as needed to our website. John Spach stated that we need a webmaster to give the site a facelift. If you know somebody with the skillset and time, please make us aware of them.

Tom Garren reported the ticket sales for the show.

e. Member Handbook

Randy Foulke reported we are making progress on the member handbook. It is anticipated that a complete version of the new member orientation portion of the book will be presented to the Board at their June meeting. The next meeting of the Rules committee will be on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

8. New Business

Bob Witwer reported that Terry Luft made him aware of some potential properties to investigate for a possible new location for the Club. He will have more information on these properties soon.

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 7:50 pm.