

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of May 16, 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 Liam Bryant, Richard Calfee, Bernie Dawson, Darrell Dennis, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Mike Johns, Clif Kelly, George Lasley, Terry Luft, Mike Marsh, Larry Martin, Don McPherson, Greg Rehe, Jim Smith, John Spach, John Wallis, Don Weaver, and Ron Wertenberg.

Members attending by Zoom were Ed Bottum, Alan Bradley, Jerry Davis, Pete Donofrio, Jake Forbes, Haydon Harrison, Ralph James, Collin Martinko, Mike Poulin, George Sawyer, Eric Susseles,

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

Three guests attended by Zoom tonight. They were Ely Carter-Willamson, Jeffrey Beals, and Logan Knight. This is Ely's third meeting. It is Jeffrey and Logan's first meeting.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

John Wallis made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Bernie Dawson and passed unanimously.

5. 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 Randy Foulke and passed unanimously.

6. Show and Tell

John Spach shared a set of photos of the Clubhouse and layouts to show the disarray in which the areas had been left. The photos included pictures of the lights left on in the HO/N room, the Shop left unlocked and the door open, buildings sitting on the track, cars and trucks from the HO layout sitting on the N scale layout, and a can of paint sitting on the tracks of the HO layout. Members were reminded to follow the rules for the layouts and the closing guidelines for the building. These types of activities must stop.

Milo Poulin noted that the metal spray paint can could have caused a short on the HO track that could have resulted in a fire or damage to electronic equipment.

George Lasley suggested a card key system to be installed to identify who may have been in the building when problems like these arise.

Larry Martin suggested another possibility could be ring type motion activated cameras in each room. The data from them can be retrieved and analyzed.

John Spach stated that this issue will be taken up at the Board meeting. If anyone has any additional thoughts on this matter, please let a Board member know.

Ken Howard mentioned that on last Sunday four out of ten cars that were being run by him and Tom Garren required maintenance. Members were reminded to either fix a car with a problem or fill out a bad order card so someone else can fix it. Do not place it back on the shelf for someone else to try and use.

It was further noted that these procedures are important for all layouts, not just HO and N.

7. Communications with the Club

Richard Calfee reported a gentleman named Mike will bring a donation of some HO templates and switches to the Club on Sunday.

Richard also talked to another person who will donate some items to the Club if he is unable to sell them on eBay.

Tom Garren reported an email conversation with Mike Wagner. It is very possible that this is the same person who talked to Calfee. He is bringing by a group of HO items on Sunday including some switch templates and a 3D printed rail car set as well as some other items.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Clif Kelly reported that Ely Carter-Williamson has met the two meeting requirement for membership as well as helping out at the show. Ron Wertenberg made a motion to suspend the rules and vote Ely in as Senior member. The motion was seconded by John Spach and passed unanimously.

Also in attendance tonight, for their first meeting, were Jeffrey Beals and his grandson Logan Knight. This is their first meeting.

Tom Garren requested a date for the next Open House so the website can be updated. After some discussion, it was decided to have the event on Saturday, October 5th.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. Facilities

Collin Martinko noted that the Crew Lounge was a mess on last Saturday. He thanked Don Weaver for vacuuming the carpet on Saturday morning.

Also, Collin reported that the fire extinguishers need to be inspected. After some discussion it was determined to get the fire extinguishers inspected. John Spach will get the fire extinguishers inspected.

d. Engineering Committee

N Scale – Bernie Dawson reported the cardboard at the end of the layout has been removed and replaced by a hinged panel and the inside of the tunnel has been painted.

The N scale group is moving forward on using the two T Trak modules that have been donated to them by John Wallis to create a down East tobacco farm diorama. This may expand to become a Neuse River Valley in T Trak.

HO – Ken Howard reported several items on the HO layout are nearing completion. Bob Witwer has installed a trestle on the line going up to the coal mine.

Pete Donofrio is working on the track for the lumber camp.

Paul Lebiezinski is working on the framing for the mountain as well as improvements to the staging tracks under the mountain. He has rearranged the tracks so that we now have two long staging tracks under the mountain.

Finally, Alan Bradley and Collin Martinko have finished up work on the yard on module nine. This gives us a destination on the layout and creates an area where inbound trains can be broken up and classified.

O Gauge – Mike Keelean reported that work continues on the mountain at the back of the room. Additionally, the O Gauge team is working on donated equipment to determine what needs to be repaired, then what we want to keep or what we want to sell.

Shop – John Spach announced that we now own a Lokprogrammer for use programming Loksound decoders. It is not yet operational. We must isolate it, so it doesn't get damaged accidentally. Once it is functional, some instructions on the proper use of this tool will be provided by John Wallis and/or Collin Martinko.

e. Program Committee

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

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke reminded everyone of the trip to Golden East Railroad Modelers in Rocky Mount this Saturday. Plans are to leave the Clubhouse at 11:00 am and carpool to the extent possible.

Randy is also trying to line up a visit to the Waynesboro club in Goldsboro later this summer.

On October 18th the Club will be on the convention layout tour of the NMRA Mid East Region Convention. This is sponsored by the Central Piedmont Division (CPD) 13 of the NMRA's Mid East Region. The Club will be open for this event from 10:00

to 2:00. We want to have enough members present to have all layouts running and answer questions.

g. Shirts

Collin Martinko reported that he will try to distribute the remaining shirts from the recent order on Sunday.

h. Member Handbook

Randy Foulke reported that the team is working and expects to have the section for New Member Orientation ready for presentation to the Board at their next meeting.

9. Old Business

a. Spring Show

George Lasley thanked everyone for helping out at the show. Much merchandise was observed going out and the vendors seemed pleased. All in all it was a good show.

b. Bylaws Revisions

Alan Bradley conducted the second reading of the proposed bylaws revisions. This was followed by a long discussion and a series of questions being asked. Finally, a vote was taken of all Senior members present by secret ballot. The measure failed. The package has been handed back to the Bylaws committee for additional work. It will be brought back to the membership at a future date.

10. New Business

a. John Spach announced that Phil Michaud has resigned from being the Treasurer elect and the Club due to personal reasons. The nominating committee is now conducting a search to identify a prospective new Treasurer. In the interim, Mike Keelean has agreed to remain as Treasurer until a new Treasurer can be identified and elected.

b. George Lasley announced that he has resigned from the role of Show chairman.

11. Program

Liam Bryant presented a program on 3D printing.

12. Adjournment

Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 pm.