

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of June 03, 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, 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, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, Mike Marsh, Schaefer O'Neill, John Wallis, and Don Weaver.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Ely Carter-Williamson, Haydon Harrison, Tom Magnani, John Mezera, and Greg Rehe.

We had four guests tonight. Attending in person were Mike Hinman and Robert Sargent. This is the first meeting for both Mike and Robert.

Attending by Zoom were Jeff Beals and Logan Knight. This is their second meeting.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Richard Calfee made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as submitted. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report. Mike noted that he needs an updated inventory from each of the layout chairmen, as well as the Shop and the Library by the Membership meeting on June 20th. These inventories will be used to help in our annual tax preparation. Bob Witwer had some questions about checks for honorarium for the layouts at the last show.

Mike Keelean reminded everyone about the black box in the Library to be used for payments. Bob Witwer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

a. Richard Calfee retrieved one message from someone wanting to verify our hours. He followed up with the person and answered his questions.

b. Richard Calfee also noted that we have installed a plaque on the wall for Frank Mansfield for the donation of the wooden passenger car that is displayed above the plaque.

c. John Spach reported that prospective member Mike Hinman made a donation tonight of some HO equipment.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Clif Kelly reported that the annual dues payment cycle is well underway. We have already received dues from over 25% of our members. Also, we may have as many as five new members to be voted in at the June 20th Membership meeting.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. Facilities

John Spach noted that he is working on getting our fire extinguishers updated.

John also reported a successful work day on HO cars where some 127 were inspected and minor repairs that were needed were performed on most during the session.

d. Engineering

N scale – Bernie Dawson reported that work continues on scenery on the layout at the Club. The group wants to develop a two module diorama on the two TTrak modules donated to the Club by John Wallis. The thought is to create a down East tobacco farm diorama on the modules. The group will develop a formal plan and present it to the Board for approval and funding.

HO – Bob Witwer reported that Milo Poulin has completed his drop-in quarry and is ready to install it. Pete Donofrio is making progress on the track to the coal mine. Pete will work with Paul Lebedinsky to add support for a siding added as a runaround track. Bob is also building a control panel for the switches at the coal mine and the quarry. An additional panel will be built for the sawmill.

Bob also advised that within the next month we will be ready to really get into scenery for the mountain. We need trees. The desire is to have the layout as complete as possible when the NMRA convention comes to town in October.

O Gauge – Mike Keelean reported the mountain in the back continues to have details added. Also, buildings are being wired for lighting and Plexiglas is being considered to protect the corners of the layout.

S Gauge – George List reported that a PRR J5 has been added to the locomotive fleet. Steve Dahlem will help George on the S gauge layout. New shelves will added to the wall above the layout allowing more of the Club's S gauge rolling stock to be displayed.

George List will also meet with Andy Lowman to learn more about locomotive maintenance.

It was stated that S gauge track we had consigned in Thomasville has been sold.

- e. Program Committee
John Wallis reported that we have volunteers for programs through April 2025.
- f. Social Committee
Randy Foulke reported that he is working on a series of tours of member's layouts. He will ask for volunteers at the June Membership meeting.

Randy also noted that a trip to visit the Goldsboro group will remain in our future.

7. Old Business

a. Throttle Damage

John Spach noted that we have once again experienced damage on our newest Digitrax throttles. Last week four throttles were discovered to have broken screens and are therefore unusable. Tom Garren shared a picture of these four throttles. These throttles have been sent back to Digitrax for repair. Additionally, three of our older throttles have also been damaged.

b. Security Committee

John Spach announced the creation of the new Security committee. It will be made up of Bernie Dawson, Richard Calfee, and Ralph James. They are charged to investigate the cost of installing security cameras and a monitoring service for the building. Preliminary cost estimates range from \$250.00 to \$400.00 for the cameras and \$100.00 to 250.00 per year for monitoring.

A discussion was held to bring the membership up to date on our thoughts for encouraging using cell phones and tablets for throttles. Bernie Dawson noted that using Engine Driver on an Android phone is very easy, including consisting.

The committee is requested to conduct their investigation and report back to the Board at their July meeting.

c. Hot Water

John Spach acknowledged the requests and asked if we want to proceed. A short discussion mentioned some alternatives that could possibly meet the need. Bob Witwer made a motion to investigate the cost of putting hot water back in the building. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.

d. Layout Maintenance Budget

John Spach mentioned that we need a policy in place where the chairman of each layout can request up to \$100.00 a month for maintenance items. This does not include funds for capital improvement. Expansion would require a plan and request for approval and funding from the Board. Bob Witwer made a motion to allow up to \$100.00 per month per layout and the Shop to be paid without additional Board approval as long as the

request is made by the layout or Shop chairman. The motion was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously.

e. Member Handbook

Randy Foulke presented the New Member Orientation portion of the Member Handbook for approval.

This led to comments from several members. Bob Witwer mentioned that we need to designate the specific mentors that will be assigned to the new members. John Spach announced that there is a new position on the org chart of Mentor Coordinator. All we need is a volunteer to fill the position.

Bernie Dawson likes the idea of each layout chairman taking care of assigning a mentor for a new member of the particular scale.

George Lasley noted that we need to be specific about food and our Library books. He has observed someone eating with greasy fingers while reading a Club book.

Mike Keelean noted that we need instructions for the credit card machines included in the orientation document. The discussion that followed agreed that people need to learn how to use the credit card machines but are not certain that information needs to be included in the orientation document.

Randy Foulke concluded this part of the meeting by stating that the goal of creating a Members Handbook is to set forth how we operate as a Club. It is not meant to take the fun out of the hobby. Tom Garren stated that the handbook can help keep the fun in the hobby for a group of our size.

f. Honorarium

Bob Witwer raised a question about honorarium payments for layouts at our shows. Bob suggested that we make a standing offer to non-member layouts of \$150.00. John Spach expressed some concern depending on the success of the show. Tom Garren commented that he liked Bob's suggestion of establishing a baseline honorarium amount of \$150.00. Bernie Dawson stated that an honorarium is not guaranteed but is awarded depending on the success of the show. It was concluded that we say we may provide an honorarium as long as the show is successful.

8. New Business

a. New PCs for the Club

John Spach stated that we are in need of getting some new computers for the Club. Discussions have been held and suggested that we obtain two new medium powered laptops for use at the Club. After the discussion, John Wallis volunteered to investigate some laptops and report back to the Board.

b. Large Screen TV for Meeting Monitor

John Spach stated that we would like to add a large screen to use as the Zoom monitor for our meetings. Several of our members are also members of CPD13 and have seen this technology used effectively at their meetings. This would replace the AV cart and projector we are currently using, giving us more room for seating in the Crew Lounge.

Schaefer O'Neill volunteered to donate a 55 inch TV to the Club. John Spach noted that we still need a mount and cables for the tv. Tom Garren made a motion to allocate \$100.00 to purchase a tv wall mount and the needed cables to complete the installation. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

c. Contribution to Golden East Railroad Modelers

Randy Foulke suggested that we make a donation to the Golden East Railroad Modelers as we have done in the past to other groups we have visited. Tom Garren made a motion to donate \$100.00 to the Golden East Model Railroaders. The motion was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously.

d. Fall Show Flyer

Bob Witwer stated that Greg Rehe has been working on a new flyer for the Fall show. This will be finalized, printed, and sent out in the near future.

e. Brick Universe

Tom Garren noted that he has sent out a notice for Steve Wills requesting help for the upcoming Brick Universe show occurring later this month.

9. Adjournment of Public Portion of the Meeting

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm.