

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Membership Meeting of June 20, 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 Alan Bradley, Richard Calfee, Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Brian Heaton, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, John Kuchnia, Ted Kunstling, Taylor Lang, George Lasley, Paul Lebiedzinski, Terry Luft, Mike Marsh, Don McPherson, Schaefer O'Neill, Larry Pearlman, Greg Rehe, Alan Servan, Jim Smith, John Spach, Don Weaver, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom were Arthur Boone, Jr., Ed Bottum, Ely Carter-Williamson, Kelly Darden, Jerry Davis, Haydon Harrison, Jeff Neubert, Mike Poulin, George Sawyer, Brylan Teague, and John Wallis.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

Three guests attended in person tonight. They were Bill Butler, Mike Hinman, and Chuck Lenard. Bill and Mike have satisfied the two meeting requirement and are eligible for membership. This is Chuck's first meeting.

Guests attending by Zoom tonight were Jeffrey Beals, and Logan Knight. This is their third meeting making them eligible for membership.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Alan Bradley made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

5. Treasurers Report

Mike Keelean gave the Treasurer's report. This was Mike's final report. Ely Carter-Williamson asked if we had considered using an online service for the collection of dues. We have not considered this type of service at this time. Richard Calfee made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

6. Show and Tell

John Spach showed a pair of plastic bottles that make very good ballast applicators for model railroading. He donated these bottles to the Club.

Tom Garren showed a sample of how to control a turnout using brass tubing and wire. This can be installed without having to remove the switch from the roadbed. Mounted below the table top was a Tortoise switch machine. The sample was made by George

Lasley who explained the method he used to mount the switch machine. This demonstration prop has been left at the Clubhouse for anyone that wishes to study.

Tom Garren showed a picture of the new Scale Trains Southern Railway GP 30s in HO.

Tom Garren showed a picture of the four Digitrax throttles that had been damaged by persons unknown and are now at Digitrax being repaired. Tom stated that this is an example of why people should provide their own throttles.

John Spach presented a plaque to George Lasley commemorating 40 years of service as the Grand Poohbah of our shows.

#### 7. Communications with the Club

George Lasley reported that the Little Choo Choo shop in Spencer is closing in July. They are now selling inventory at 50% off. George has received reports that the merchandise is very picked over. He guesses that they will not remain open until their July 20<sup>th</sup> date.

Alan Bradley reported that our Club has been invited to participate in the Golden East Railroad Modeler's Club's operating session on Sunday from Noon to 4:00 pm in Rocky Mount. Let Alan know if you would like to go so he can let the Golden East folks know.

Ken Howard announced he had details on a Zoom clinic to be held Sunday on scratch building brass locomotives. See Ken for the details.

#### 8. Committee Reports

##### a. Membership Committee

Clif Kelly reported that tonight we have Bill Butler, Mike Hinman, Jeffrey Beals, and Logan Knight eligible for membership. Bill has requested to be a Senior member, Mike and Jeffrey have asked to be Associate members and Logan, Jeffrey's grandson, will be a Youth member. George Lasley made a motion to suspend the rules and vote these four people in as members of the Club. The motion was seconded by Alan Bradley and passed unanimously.

Clif also reminded everyone that we hope to collect dues for FY 24-25 by the end of June.

John Spach announced that there are three lockers available for Senior members at the rate of \$50.00 per year.

##### b. Ways and Means

Alan Bradley reported that the annual audit of the books was conducted last Saturday. The committee approved the books and is looking for a motion to close the books for last year and to approve the audit. George Sawyer made a motion to approve the audit and close the books for last year. The motion was seconded by Schaefer O'Neill and passed unanimously.

c. Facilities

John Spach reminded everyone do their best to keep the rest rooms in the building clean.

d. Engineering Committee

N Scale – Bernie Dawson reported that the N scale team is still developing a proposal concerning T Trak that will be presented to the Board at their July meeting. Also, work on expanding the scenery on the existing layout continues.

HO – Ken Howard reported that the quarry has been installed, all of the trackage for the Main four extension, including the mine, the quarry, and the lumber camp has been installed. This track is now awaiting power and switch machines to be placed into service.

There is a new staging yard being built under Mt. Witwer courtesy of the efforts of Paul Lebiezinski.

The ladder yard on module nine at the base of Main 4 extension on the legacy layout is now operational with a couple of power glitches that will be worked out.

Berlin has been disassembled and replaced by the interior three track yard that will interconnected to Module four on Main four giving better operation capabilities. Members have been requested to submit their ideas for the redevelopment of Module four to help complete this renovation.

Ken also reported that the new shelving has been installed and painted. Club engines have been moved back on each side of the layout, so members have locomotives near the staging tracks.

Richard Calfee mentioned the brown shelves are for storage of members' equipment. This led to a discussion about member owned equipment. The assumption is that if equipment is on the shelf it should not be used by anyone other than the owner. If member equipment is left on the layout it can be run by anyone. This topic will be discussed further at the next HO committee meeting.

O gauge – Mike Keelean reported they have received a couple of donations last weekend. They are continuing to work along the back wall and finishing up the carnival area.

S scale – Alan Servas reported he is working on the inventory to list Club-owned equipment. He realizes that some of the equipment is member owned on the G scale layout. He is also looking for others with interest in G scale.

e. Program Committee

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

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke reported that he is working on a tour of the Lionel facilities in Concord. This will be a joint trip with the TCA.

Randy is also working to set up tours of member's home layouts. Look for more on this later.

Randy is also still working on a trip to the Amherst show in January. We will need to make reservations with Amtrak by October to get a group discount. We will be reminded about this again closer to the deadline.

9. Old Business

a. Nominating Committee

Ken Howard reported that the nominating committee has met and recommends that Schaefer O'Neill become our new Treasurer. The nominating committee placed Schaefer O'Neill in nomination for the office of Treasurer. There were no other nominations from the floor. Randy Foulke made a motion to close the nominations. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

Bob Witwer next made a motion that Schaefer O'Neill be made Treasurer by acclimation. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.

b. Storage Locker

John Spach shared with the Club that we have had a 4x8 HO layout and a large piece of two inch foam disappear from our storage lockers. If anyone has information about these items please let John or any other Board member know. We need these materials to prepare the raffle layout for the Fall show.

c. Fall Show

Bob Witwer reported that we are getting reservations for the Fall show from vendors. We need to rework the plan to increase the number of tables and determine the number of layouts we can have at the show.

We are planning on name tags for the vendors and layout people.

The food vendor has agreed to include coffee and breakfast sandwiches.

Collin Martinko will lead the effort to build the raffle layout.

Bernie Dawson will continue to lead the effort to build the staffing schedule.

Paul Lebedinsky? will direct the porters and direct the traffic in and out of the building for setup and tear down.

d. Rules Committee

Randy Foulke announced that the Rules committee will change its name to the Member Handbook committee. The goal is to still have fun with the structure needed for a Club of our size. The section on Orientation for new and existing members has been presented to the Board. Laminated sheets have been provided for use beginning now.

10. New Business

None

11. Program

Terry Luft gave a presentation on his home layout. It is a three-rail scale layout modeling the Southern Pacific in California's San Joaquin Valley.

12. Adjournment

Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.