

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of July 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, Ken Howard, Schaefer O'Neill, George Sawyer, John Spach, and Bob Witwer.

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, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, and John Wallis.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Ely Carter-Williamson, George List, Milo Poulin, and Gene Sing.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Ken Howard 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

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

Bob Witwer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by George Sawyer and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

a. Ken Howard reported that he and Tom Garren are going to pick up some magazines and view the layout and trains of our late member Tom Tiemann. Tom's wife, Eileen McGrath, will possibly donate the trains to the Club at a later date.

b. Tom Garren reported that Jeff Neubert has resigned from the Club. He hopes to rejoin at a future date.

c. George Lasley reported he learned this week that the wife of member Henry Shirley had passed away in March or April. Tom Garren will provide a sympathy card for members to sign and then send to Henry.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Clif Kelly reported that the annual dues payment cycle is underway. We have approximately 28 more people that need to pay. Also, we may have as many as four new members to be voted in at the July 18th Membership meeting.

b. Ways and Means

Alan Bradley reported that the committee is waiting on the Treasurer to make a recommendation on an accounting system to be adopted by the Club. Ways and Means will report back to the Board on this at a later date. Ways and Means also recommends holding off on buying a computer for the Treasurer until the software selection is complete.

c. Facilities

Bernie Dawson reported that the exterminator has removed two critters from the ceiling. John Spach reminded people not to leave food and food wrappers at the Club. The exterminators are responsible for plugging holes that allow critters access to the building. We also need to talk to the landlord about trimming or cutting down a tree that creates a pathway for rats, mice, etc. to use to gain access to the building. Schaefer O'Neill volunteered to bring in some gently used ceiling tiles that can be used to replace existing tiles that have deteriorated due to animals in the ceiling. Randy Foulke will investigate the possibility to remove the limb in question.

d. Engineering

N scale – Bernie Dawson presented a request to the Board for funding needed to build a small T-Trak layout. This traveling layout will be used to promote the Club at various shows and appearances in the area. This will be a small layout measuring 6.5 feet by 4.5 feet. Available materials will be used before purchasing other items.

Bob Witwer made a motion to allocate one thousand dollars to fund the T-Trak layout project. The motion was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously. George Sawyer made an amendment to the motion stating that we would fund **up to** one thousand dollars. The amendment was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

HO – Ken Howard reported we have received a donation of four Tortoise switch machines. Trackwork is pretty much complete on the Main 4 extension and the Module 9 yard. Planning is underway on Module 4 for interconnecting the make-up yard on the inside of the layout with Mains 3 and 4. This will be a major topic of discussion at the next HO committee meeting.

John Spach made everyone aware of a situation that occurred last Sunday when an engine that ran fine on the test track would not run at all on the layout. It was determined that one of our Loconet cables needed to be replaced as power was not available on both of the outer conductors. The connector on the throttle being used was also replaced.

O Gauge – George Sawyer reported that they are working through a recent donation.

S Gauge – George List requested \$50.00 to purchase a tender to go behind a K5 locomotive that has been restored out of parts. Bob Witwer made a motion to allocate up to \$50.00 to purchase the tender. The motion was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

G Scale – Nothing to report.

e. Program Committee

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

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke reported that he is still working on setting tours of member's layouts.

7. Old Business

a. Missing Layouts

John Spach noted that we have no information on the missing layouts even after our requests for information. We have identified some alternatives so a layout can be built for the raffle at the Fall show.

b. By Laws

Ken Howard and Alan Bradley went over the proposed Bylaws changes. It was noted that the previous revisions were rejected. Tonight a new set were presented that contain no changes in the dues. Alan Bradley went over the changes with the attendees of the Board meeting. The first reading will take place at the July membership meeting. A copy of the document showing the changes will be sent to the membership at least seven days prior to the August Membership meeting. After the second reading, a vote will take place of the Senior members in good standing in attendance in person at the meeting. Randy Foulke asked the committee to make sure of some possible discrepancies in the Bylaws concerning ages for membership categories. There was a discussion about voting in the Club including voting for the Bylaws.

George Sawyer made a motion to put the Bylaws revisions to the membership. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and was passed unanimously.

c. Fall Show

Bob Witwer gave a report on the Fall Show. Bob went over the table rental rates and the rates for additional chairs. There was a question about requiring the vendors to stay until closing time. Scale Trains will be a new vendor at the show. So far there are six layouts lined up to attend with a few more possibilities. We are planning to offer 379 vendor tables for rent plus the tables used for Club needs.

8. New Business

a. Insurance

Bob Witwer is also investigating the Club's insurance policies. We will be receiving quotes on increasing our coverage for both policies and to verify we are covered for replacement cost on the contents of the Clubhouse, not depreciated value. Bob will continue to investigate these items and report back to the Board.

b. Lockers

John Spach announced that we have one locker available to be rented.

c. Special Vacuum

Randy Foulke brought a request from the Member Handbook committee to fund getting a special vacuum designed to clean a layout without destroying the existing ballast or scenery materials. The example he has found is from Micro Mart with a cost of \$40.00 plus tax and shipping. George Lasley suggested to also look at one from Woodland Scenics. The Board requested that more investigation be done on this item and come back to the Board with a recommendation.

9. Adjournment of Public Portion of the Meeting

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 pm.