

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of July 18, 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, Ely Carter-Williamson, Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Haydon Harrison, Mike Hinman, Ken Howard, Clif Kelly, Taylor Lang, George Lasley, Mike Marsh, Larry Martin, Don McPherson, John Mezera, Schaefer O'Neill, Larry Pearlman, Greg Rehe, Alan Servas, Jim Smith, John Spach, Elliot Susseles, John Wallis, Ron Wertenberg, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom were Wayne Aiken, Bill Butler, Jerry Davis, Ted Kunstling, Mike Poulin, and Joe Scales.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

Four guests attended in person tonight. They were Stretch Andersen, Kevin Harrington, Chuck Lenard, and Robert Sargent. Chuck and Robert have satisfied their two meeting requirement and are eligible for membership. This is the first meeting for Stretch and Kevin.

Guests attending by Zoom tonight were Zachory Bodnar and his son Noah Bodnar-Nakamoto. This is their second meeting making them eligible for membership. Also attending by Zoom were Bob Milback and Bill Comfort. This is Bill's first meeting. He is interested in European modeling.

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

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report. Ken Howard reminded everyone how to remove the receipts from the credit card machines to prevent jamming. Ron Wertenberg made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by John Wallis and passed unanimously.

6. Show and Tell

Ely Carter-Williamson shared a series of photos he made on a recent trip to New Orleans.

John Spach showed two large cardboard boxes that have been left in the Board storage locker. No one knew anything about these boxes. It is suspected that there is an unknown key for the Board storage locker in use. If the key is returned to the black box

in the Library by Sunday there will be no questions asked. If not, the lock will be rekeyed next week.

7. Communications with the Club

Joes Scales attended his first meeting with Zoom and a camera on his computer.

Ely Carter-Williamson shared a thank you from a group of users of the N3V Trainz simulator that had recently visited the Club. They were very pleased with the hospitality extended to them by Liam Bryant and Collin Martinko.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Clif Kelly reported that tonight we have Zachory Bodnar, Noah Bodnar-Nakamoto, Chuck Lenard, and Robert Sargent eligible for membership. Zachory and Robert have requested to be Associate members. Chuck has requested to be a Senior member, Noah, Zachory's son, will be a Youth member. Ken Howard made a motion to suspend the rules and vote these four people in as members of the Club. The motion was seconded by Randy Foulke and passed unanimously.

Clif also reminded everyone that we hope to collect dues for FY 24-25 by the end of July. We have already collected approximately seventy percent of the annual dues. If you have not yet paid your dues, please get them in to the Club.

Chuck Larnerd asked how we recover keys from members that have left the Club. John Spach stated that the answer is that we have not always been able to get the keys returned. Tom Garren added that in some cases the people who have left the Club make sure their key is returned. John Spach said that so far we have not had a problem with the keys. If it becomes a problem we will then take additional actions.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. House

John Spach reported that five security cameras have been installed in the Club with two more to be added. At the moment we are not using a security service, but rather using the footage from the cameras as after the fact investigation. This may change if a service is deemed necessary. There are signs on both the front door and on the door to the HO/N layout room advising the area is under video surveillance.

Things seem to be going better with food and trash removal at the Club. We did have another rodent occurrence and do not want to attract more. A reminder, any food-related trash should be removed as soon as the person is finished with it.

Randy Foulke stated that he will work with Collin and try to trim the limbs on the tree within reach of his tools to remove the path to the building for the critters. In the end, someone may have to be hired to complete the job.

d. Engineering Committee

N Scale – Bernie Dawson reported that the N scale team is moving forward with the development of a small T Trak layout. Scenery continues to be added to the legacy N scale layout. Much like the rest of the Club, the N scale group continues to grow.

HO – Ken Howard reported that there is no HO committee meeting in July.

The next HO committee meeting will be on Sunday, August 18th at 1:00 pm at the Clubhouse. At the August meeting Ken is looking for Module 4 design suggestions. This includes how to access the inside yard, and how to redevelop Germantown including industries, businesses, switching opportunities. One suggestion is to have an icing platform there. Decisions such as this should be decided at the August meeting.

As far as work in progress, Main 4 extension track is down and ready to be wired. The new makeup yard under Mt. Witwer is continuing to advance thanks to the efforts of Paul Lebiezinski. Alan Bradley stated that the Module 9 yard is now operational. Scenery continues to be added and repairs are being made to the areas that were damaged.

Bob Witwer added that he and Ralph James provided temporary power to the Main 4 extension and an engine was run on the track up to the sawmill. The results of the test were positive. Ken added that Bob is making the panel to control the switches on this extension.

Randy Foulke reported that he has heard nothing on the throttles returned for service to Digitrax. Once the throttles are back from Digitrax, a plan will be developed and implemented to secure and charge these throttles.

Ken Howard reminded everyone to not leave throttles in the holders on the layout. They should be returned to a box in the Shop designated for their storage.

S gauge – John Spach reported for George List. Funds were appropriated by the Board for a new motor for one of the locomotives. Progress continues to be made with the S gauge layout.

O gauge – Nothing to report.

G scale – Alan Servas reported that he is working on the new member orientation document. He has cleaned the track and one and determined that one of the engines has some problems. He may take it to New Hope Valley for help with the diagnosis and repair.

- e. Program Committee
John Wallis reported that we have volunteers for programs through May of 2025. However, the file containing the information is corrupted. He needs the information for program presenters for February, March, and April for 2025. If you have signed up for one of those months, please let John know so he can rebuild his file.
- 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. He is also thinking about arranging a tour of the Greensboro club.

Members are reminded that Randy is still working on the Amherst trip in January. His figures estimate that the cost per person will be around \$500.00. We will be going up on Friday and come home on Monday. Several details to still be worked out. Stay tuned for more information.

9. Old Business

- a. Politics
John Spach reminded everyone that the Club is a politics free zone. This applies at the Clubhouse, our breakfasts or anywhere else that is a Club function, or the Club is in session. If you want to have a political discussion, take it outside or away from the Club.
- b. Bylaws Revisions
John Spach reminded everyone of the process for updating the Bylaws. The Bylaws committee has taken input from the membership. The committee has taken that input and prepared a Bylaws revision statement. Tonight will be the first reading of these proposed changes. Prior to the next meeting the membership will receive an email containing a document showing the proposed changes. At the next meeting there will be second reading of the proposed changes and a vote will be taken by secret ballot of the Senior members in good standing that are present in person for the meeting. This will be an up or down vote.

Alan Bradley presented a slide presentation outlining the proposed changes in the Bylaws.

John Spach reminded everyone that the Bylaws are a living document that are meant to be revised from time to time. Ken Howard reiterated there are no dues changes in these revisions.

- c. George Lasley Open House
George Lasley stated that his layout will be open for visitors this Sunday at 3:00 pm. Please call George with any questions.

10. New Business

None

11. Program

Haydon Harrison gave a presentation on Marklin trains.

12. Adjournment

Alan Bradley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by John Wallis and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.