

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of August 05, 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 Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, Mike Hinman, George Lasley, Mike Marsh, Greg Rehe, and John Wallis.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Ely Carter-Williamson, Scott Hall, Milo Poulin, and Elliot Susseles.

We had two guests tonight, Kevin Harrington and Bob Milback. This is Kevin's second meeting. He will be eligible to be voted on for membership on August 15<sup>th</sup>.

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 Richard Calfee and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

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

There was also a discussion about credit card charges and sales tax.

Schaefer also presented a copy of last year's tax return.

5. Communications with the Club

John Spach reported that we recently learned that the Contact Us feature of our website had stopped working. After investigation, we learned that this part of the website was built with a licensed tool for which our license had expired. John has now renewed the license and is able to see the messages that were submitted but not forwarded to our specified email address.

Potential donation notes have been passed on to Ken Howard for follow up. Ken reminded everyone that we still need to get back to Tom Tiemann's house to receive that donation, after the weather cools down.

Show questions have been passed on to Bob Witwer for follow up.

George Lasley reported that we have received a donation from the estate of the late Jack Moore of magazines, time tables, and art work.

## 6. Committee Reports

### a. Membership

Tom Garren reported that the annual dues payment cycle is well underway with over 90% payments received. We have approximately 10 more people that still need to pay. Also, we have two new members to be voted in at the August 15<sup>th</sup> Membership meeting.

### b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

### c. Facilities

Mike Hinman reported that we have installed a number of security cameras at the Club. Areas now covered by the cameras include the Shop, the N and HO layout room, the O gauge room and exit door, the outside storage areas, and the Crew Lounge. The Security committee is Richard Calfee, Bernie Dawson, and Mike Hinman. They have access to monitor the cameras.

Bernie Dawson stated that he had successfully tested the feature which allows him to speak to someone in the Club via the cameras.

Members were once again reminded to not leave food and food containers in the Club house.

### d. Engineering

N Scale – Bernie Dawson reported that scenery and trackwork are progressing on the N scale layout. The N scale committee met last Saturday. Work is moving ahead slowly on T Trak modules. These modules should be ready to display a tobacco farm at the Fall show.

John Spach asked Bernie to provide a list of track the N team needs. He may be able to donate track to meet this need.

Mike Hinman reported that plastic chains have been installed to keep visitors from going behind the N scale layout.

HO – Ken Howard reported the yard on Module 9 has been fixed. The colors for the Main 4 bus extensions have been established by Ralph James. Paul Lebieczinski has completed the track work under Mt. Witwer. He has modified Atlas switches to make them work more positively.

S Gauge – John Spach reported that George List had requested fifteen dollars to repair and S gauge Geep. The request was approved. Once repaired, it will give the Club one AC and one DC powered GP 7/9.

O Gauge – George Sawyer reported they are working through problems using DCS and Lionel Legacy on the same track. Ralph James will help sort out this problem.

G Gauge – John Spach reported for Alan Servas that it has been found that after running the track cleaning locomotive, a residue is left on the track. This residue attaches to the wheels of locomotives running on the layout and has to be physically removed.

The advice to members is if you use the track cleaner, follow this activity by wiping down the track before running a train.

e. Program Committee

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

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke reported that he has talked to the Greensboro Club. They would be glad to have us come over for a visit. It has been suggested that we may want to take the Piedmont from Cary to Greensboro. The discounted fare for this round trip is sixteen dollars. The train would leave Cary at 10:12 am. It would leave Greensboro to return to Cary at 5:20 pm. Randy is proposing Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> as the date for this outing. He will continue to gather more information about this event and report back.

7. Old Business

a. Member Handbook

Randy Foulke reported that the committee hopes to have a document put together for Board approval by the next business meeting. This would be the September meeting. The document will be sent to the Board members before the meeting so they can review the document in advance.

b. Fall Show

Bob Witwer gave a report on the Fall Show. As of 7:00 pm tonight we have 132 paid tables, 212 reserved tables, giving us 344 tables taken out of a total of 366 tables. This leaves only 22 tables left to be sold. There are also 74 potential people from Fall or Spring previous shows that have not yet turned in a reservation. First come, first served.

Six layouts have been confirmed on the show floor with two more in the lobby. There will also be a static display in the lobby.

Schafer O'Neill is getting us lanyards and different colored inserts to designate vendors, layout people and Club members at the show.

Train Talks. A table and chairs will be set up on the show floor near the roll up door. Volunteers will man the table to lead discussions about trains, modeling, and the Club. It was suggested to make announcements over the PA system when selected topics are

scheduled. Bernie Dawson has included Train Talks in his staffing plan. Staffing of the table can also include vendors.

Bernie Dawson is heading up scheduling the staff (Club members) to work at the show. Bernie requests help to call people to get the sheet populated.

Bob Witwer also reported on social media and advertising. If you go to our website, you can fill out a vendor application on line which can then be printed out and mailed to us.

Kelly Darden has established a QR code with Eventbrite for the sale of advance tickets. If you click on the QR code and follow the instructions, you will be sold a ticket and receive an electronic ticket back from Eventbrite. The ticket will be scanned and approved at the admissions table at the show. The QR codes are now shown on the flyers on both our website and our Facebook page.

There was a short discussion on sales tax. This seems to be the responsibility of the individual vendors.

George Lasley stated that he had researched the issue of sales tax on tickets with the State. Since we are a non-profit, sales tax is not required on our ticket sales.

## 8. New Business

### a. Spring Show

Bob Witwer also reported that we have received the contract for the Spring 2025 show. A motion was made by Bob Witwer and seconded by Richard Calfee to authorize the payment of \$4,000.00 to the Fairgrounds as the deposit for the Spring show. The motion passed unanimously.

The dates of the Spring show are May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Tom Garren will update the website to reflect these dates.

The dates for the 2025 Fall show will be November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 in the Graham Building.

### b. Apparel

Randy Foulke reported that Collin Martinko is planning a new apparel order in the near future.

The apparel committee would like to add tee shirts to our selections. Since the logo is silkscreened on tees, there is a minimum order of twelve required. George Sawyer requested that if we do tee shirts, they be 100% cotton and have a pocket.

There was also discussion about having our vendor create a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary show shirt. Randy will follow up on this idea. The thought now is that the shirt would be sold at our vendor's table rather than the Club table. Final details are to be determined.

Tom Garren suggested that we create an inventory of Club caps like the one Randy has. Since one size fits all, there should not be a sizing problem and should be a safe item to keep in stock.

9. Good and Welfare of the Club

Gene Sing's brother passed away recently. The Club sent a card to Gene.  
Dan Egy is back running trains at the Club. This is good news.

10. Adjournment of Public Portion of the Meeting

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.