

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of September 09, 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 Wayne Aiken, Ely Carter-Williamson, Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, Mike Hinman, Clif Kelly, and George Lasley.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Bill Butler, George List, Milo Poulin, Elliot Susseles, and John Wallis.

We had two guests tonight, Kevin Harrington and Bob Milback. This is Kevin's third meeting. He will be eligible to be voted on for membership on September 19th.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

4. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

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

5. Communications with the Club

Richard Calfee reported contact with Steve Bath. Mr. Bath is looking to sell his train collection and has sent a group of photos of the equipment. Calfee shared with him the possibility of selling to Nick's Trains or getting a table himself at our show. Of course, there is the chance that some of our members may be interested in some of the equipment.

Ken Howard reported that Steve Chiavetta has donated nine boxes of O and O27 equipment to the Club. This donation is being inspected and inventoried at this time. Thanks Steve.

Ken Howard also noted that we need to agree on a date that we can begin to receive the donation from Tom Tiemann's wife. After some discussion, it was decided that September 22 would be the best date for the first trip. Much help is needed to get the items down the steps from the attic. Ken will confirm with Eileen. More information will be coming on this soon.

Wayne Aiken reported that Tom ??? called and said he had some old Lionel equipment that he will bring by the Club. Some of it needs to be fixed.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Clif Kelly reported that we have 96 members. We expect to vote Kevin and Jude Harrington into membership at the September membership meeting. We have one additional application from Chris Kehoe. He still needs to attend two meetings before he can be considered for membership.

b. Ways and Means

Ken Howard presented the first reading of the proposed changes to the Constitution. This document has not been updated since 1984. There will be two more readings before the membership votes to approve or reject the proposed changes. Board members are requested to get any comments they may have to the committee by Sunday, September 15th.

c. Facilities

John Spach reported that the tree has been trimmed. We still need to perform maintenance and cleanup around the building. A question was asked about a trash service. After some discussion it was decided to leave things as they are for now, with members taking trash home to put in their containers.

Wayne Aiken reminded everyone that the magazines on the table in the Crew Lounge are Library copies and should not be taken out of the building or given to guests. He places copies of recent magazines in the lounge for the convenience of the members. If you would like to give a guest some magazines, look in the tub with the blue top underneath the S gauge layout.

d. Engineering

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

HO – Ken Howard reported the Main 4 extension is now operational. This includes the mine, the quarry, and the logging camp. Bob Witwer is building a panel to control the switches for this area.

Milo Poulin has put in a power plant off of Main 2 inside the wye. This provides an industry that consumes the output of the coal mine.

Collin Martinko is working on additional topography on the expansion near the air conditioner.

The new yard on Module 9 is now fully operational. The plan for Module 4 is expected to be finalized at the next HO committee meeting. This will involve an engine facility and

access from the interior make up yard to both Mains 3 and 4. This will make it possible to get a long train out of that yard. This work will be under construction and have structures on it by the time we have the MER visit in October.

John Spach explained some problems we are having with LocoNet. It boils down to we have one bad end on one cable on the LocoNet. It needs to be tested to determine where the problem is so it can be resolved. Bob Witwer needs to increase the voltage to the end of the expansion. This will be solved by using a heavy extension cord to power this area of the layout.

A new switch panel will be installed to make it easier to identify each power district.

O Gauge – George Sawyer reported that Mike Keelean is repairing the cars of the circus train. Also, work is being done to add DCS to more of the power districts on the layout. When complete, DCS will be available on four of the six power districts on the O Gauge layout.

S Gauge – George List reported that he has labeled the locomotives so it is easy tell if they are AC or DC powered. He has also repaired two of the Club locomotives. George also requested that members run the S gauge layout when you are in the Club. This keeps the equipment ready to run when guests come to visit the Club.

e. Program Committee

Randy Foulke reported that we have volunteers for programs through June of 2025.

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke reminded everyone that those who are riding the train on our September 28th trip to Greensboro need to be at the Cary depot by 9:50 am.

Randy is still working on the details for the Amherst trip. The biggest challenge is ground transportation between the hotel and the train show.

There is nothing to report on the trip to Lionel in Concord.

7. Old Business

a. Fall Show

Bob Witwer gave a report on the Fall Show. All 367 tables have been reserved and we have a waiting list of four persons.

We have eight layouts on display in both the lobby and the exhibition floor.

Eventbrite is up and running.

We will have another 1,000 flyers this week with the QR code for Eventbrite.

There are eight people signed up to host the Train Talk sessions at the show.

John Wallis is sending a letter to all vendors to solicit show sponsors.

The construction of the raffle layout is underway.

Bob Witwer provided information on a 40th anniversary tee shirt. He suggested that we give one of these shirts to everyone that actually works at the show. This was discussed thoroughly by the attendees at the meeting. In the end, it was decided to purchase 168 tee shirts, and one of these shirts will be given to anyone that works the show. Bob Witwer made a motion to authorize \$1,560.00 expenditure for 168 tee shirts from Mohawk Designs. The motion was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed with six affirmative votes and one abstention.

The Club has created four HO starter sets. These will include track, a power pack, an engine, a few cars and a caboose. These sets will be sold at the Club table. There is also a possibility of a couple of O gauge sets as well.

It was suggested that the Club purchase premium coverage for the show from RAL Today. This will cost \$225.00 for nine days of advertising. It was suggested to run the coverage from the Friday before the show through the Saturday of the show. George Sawyer made a motion to approve the \$225.00 for the Raleigh area coverage. The motion was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

There was additional discussion about the possibility of expanding this coverage to Charlotte, Richmond, and Columbia and Greenville, SC. It was also decided to approach TCA about helping with the cost of the expanded areas. Bob Witwer will follow up on this item.

Bernie Dawson reported that he is trying to meet with Mike Johns to get the effort seriously underway to fill out the staffing sheets.

George Lasley asked Bob Witwer to send flyers to Tiny Tim's hobby shop in Ashland, Va. Also, George recommended against selling battery powered train sets.

b. Apparel

Randy Foulke reported that Collin Martinko is planning a new apparel order in the near future. Members desiring to order new shirts should fill out the standard order form available in the Library and prepay for the clothing by placing the money in the black box, also in the Library. The new order forms will be available at the Membership meeting on the 19th.

The Club will order a box of solid hats, half black and half burgundy. These will be in stock for purchase. Members need not order hats on this order as the Club will maintain a small inventory of hats.

c. Member Handbook

Randy Foulke reported that the Board members are requested to review the parts of the Member Handbook that have been submitted by the December Board meeting. Don't get hung up on grammar or punctuation but concentrate on ideas. Let Randy know if you see the need for changes or additions.

d. Open House

Tom Garren made copies of the flyer for the October 5th Open House available. It is recommended that these flyers be distributed to local restaurants and businesses in the area to promote the event.

e. Member Roster

No one has opted out of being included in the Member Roster. The first copies were distributed tonight to those who wanted one.

8. New Business

None tonight.

9. Good and Welfare of the Club

Nothing tonight.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ken Howard. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm.