

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of October 20, 2024

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Ken Howard.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance

Members attending were Wayne Aiken, Ely Carter-Williamson, Pete Donofrio, Dan Egy, Tom Garren, Mike Hinman, Ken Howard, Chuck Larnerd, Don McPherson, Greg Rehe, John Spach, and Bob Witwer. Paul Lebiezinski attended via Zoom.

3. Inventory Changes

Three locomotives (a Santa Fe FT A-B set and a Lehigh Valley PA) have been removed from inventory and put up for sale. These units were replaced with a Seaboard E6, a Seaboard Alco S2 switcher, and a Nickel Plate/NYC Alco C-420. Three new hopper cars (a three bay and 2 two bay) have been added to inventory.

4. Problems with the Layout

Wiring problems are being addressed by Chuck Larnerd. Members may see masking tape on the layout noting specific problems and condition of switches. So far Mains 1 and 2 have been checked, though there still may be some problems.

Chuck Larnerd mentioned that he needs more drops to some sections of the mains lines. Bob Witwer suggested that over time we should get rid of the Pico switches.

Loconet problems were also mentioned. Please note that upon investigation by John Spach, it was determined that half of the Loconet had been unplugged. It is now fixed.

It was also noted that we still have an LNWI (Digitrax Wi-Fi unit) on the layout. It was decided to leave it for now as a backup for the Raspberry Pie.

5. Construction Projects

Completing the raffle layout is a priority. If the young members working on this project need help, please lend a hand. We must have this layout ready for the Fall show.

Module 4 trackwork is under way and needs to be finished. Pete Donofrio is working on the track work. Pete, Ken, and Calfee need to discuss additional scenery, track work, and construction on the module.

Greg Rehe noted that a Plexiglas guard is needed at the rear of the layout near the air conditioner. Please tell Ken Howard or Bob Witwer if you believe Plexi is needed in other areas.

Peter Donofrio volunteered to finish the track work on Module 4. Chuck Larnerd request no more power routing through switches. It was decided to ask Ted Kunstling to develop and build the engine terminal on Module 4.

It was pointed out that we have vertical track alignment issues where we come off the legacy layout onto the extension. There is also a problem at the crossover on Module 4.

6. Mount Witwer

Milo Poulin has done Yeomans' work on the quarry and the power plant. Two switch motors need to be installed by Bob Witwer for the power plant. These will be wired to the panel that controls switching on the Wye and reversing loop.

It was determined that six switch motors will be needed at the lumber camp. These should be installed as part of the re-leveling activity. After the raffle layout is removed from the shop. The lumber camp panel will be moved to the shop for switch machines and track upgrades. Bob Witwer will prepare the control panel to operate the switches.

Support is needed for the structure of the mountain. Two people will be needed to install the cardboard strips that will become the basis for the mountain scenery. A design for the tunnel entries on Mains 1 and 2 will be created by Ken Howard, Paul Lebdinski, and Bob Witwer.

7. Gaps

Chuck Larnerd asked how to fix wide gaps in the trackwork. Dan Egy has volunteered to undertake this project.

Chuck Larnerd also suggested adding a log to the trackwork book so track work can be recorded as to who did the work and when it occurred. Chuck will create the sheets for this log.

8. Digital Drawing of Layout

Ken Howard stated that we need a CAD drawing of the layout. There are two software products available for this purpose. Two products were mentioned: SCARM and AnyRail7. Both have moderate costs to obtain. The bigger question is to identify who will learn and use this software to create the drawings of the layout.

9. Wiring Specs

Chuck Larnerd suggested that we establish specifications and standards for wiring the HO layout. Chuck Larnerd, Ralph James, and Mike Hinman will collaborate on the standards.

10. Roadbed

Peter Donofrio asked whether we are planning to use cork roadbed on Module 4. The answer for now is no. Roadbed may be added later when we undertake a rebuild of the legacy layout.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 pm.