

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of October 07, 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 Ely Carter-Williamson, Bernie Dawson, and Clif Kelly.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Kelly Darden, Haydon Harrison, Ted Kunstling, George List, Milo Poulin, and John Wallis.

We had two guests tonight, Kyle Thomas and Bob Milback. This is Kyle's second meeting. He will be eligible to be voted on for membership on October 17th. Kyle is new to the hobby and is starting to build an HO layout.

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 Richard Calfee and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

Schaefer also recommended that Bob Witwer be given a Club credit card with which to handle incidental expenses related to our Club shows.

Tom Garren made a motion to provide a Club credit card to Bob Witwer to handle show related expenses. The motion was seconded by George Sawyer and passed unanimously.

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

5. Show and Tell

Tom Garren shared a picture of downtown Marshall after the recent flood caused by hurricane Helene.

6. Communications with the Club

Richard Calfee reported having spoken to Steve Wise who made inquiries about a little layout in 1:160th scale at our show last year. No one was able to recall such an item so he was referred to the internet.

Secretary's note: I recall a Z scale layout at one our shows either two or three years ago. Perhaps this is what he was asking about.

Richard Calfee also took a call from Brad Ludwig who is looking to sell his model train equipment. Calfee referred him to Nick's Trains.

Richard Calfee also reported contact with Christy Wallace. She wants to donate her father's locomotives, cars, and buildings to a club that can use them.

Tom Garren has talked to Christy Wallace. She wants to sell her father's house in the next few weeks. She has also called the New Bern club about the donation. I have called her back to negotiate a time to meet her and pick up the donation. The house is in Windsor, about two hours away. More to come on this item.

John Wallis reported that with Amtrak changing the Silver Star destination from New York to Chicago, there may be complications and a very late arrival to Springfield. There are some thoughts about driving up as well as the possibility of flying up. There will be more information at the next meeting.

John Wallis is still working with major vendors for door prizes for the Fall show. Digitrax has said no this time. John is still waiting to hear back from Walthers.

Ken Howard reported that we have received a thank you letter from Eileen McGrath, Tom Tiemann's wife. She expressed thanks to the Club for helping her dispose of the layout and donating Tom's trains to us. She stated that Tom loved the train club and now she understands why.

7. Committee Reports

a. Membership

John Spach requested a motion to allow the October 5th Open House to count as a qualifying meeting. Bob Witwer made a motion to count the October 5th Open House as a qualifying meeting. The motion was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously.

Clif Kelly reported the success of our Open House held on October 5th. We had about thirty three people sign the guest book. We also got two applications from prospective members from the Open House.

After some discussion, it was decided to have the next Open House on April 05, 2025.

b. Ways and Means

Ken Howard will present the proposed Constitution changes for their second reading at the October 17th Membership meeting. Also, Tom Garren will email the proposed changes to the membership prior to the meeting.

c. Facilities

John Spach reported that we still have our ongoing problem with people leaving food containers in trash cans at the Clubhouse. Members are reminded that we do not have a trash service. Please take your empty food containers home along with other trash when you leave the Club.

Members are reminded to keep the Clubhouse especially clean through the October 18th visit from the NMRA convention attendees.

We are also looking for a new person to head up the Facilities or House committee. We will ask for a volunteer at the next Membership meeting. This may require two volunteers, one to concentrate on the inside and one to concentrate on the outside of our facility.

Bernie Dawson commented that we still have a problem with some members eating at the same time as they are handling a library book.

Ted Kunstling wondered if we could hire a cleaning service to come twice a month to mop and clean the bathrooms and sweep the carpet.

d. Engineering

N Scale – Bernie Dawson reported that the team is still working on the T Trak modules that will be displayed at the Fall show. One of the modules sustained some damage by someone sitting something on the module. This will require rework to fix.

HO – Ken Howard reported that all the track is now working on the HO layout. Also some scenery is going in on the HO layout, but it will not be completed before the NMRA visit.

Bob Witwer stated that Paul Lebedinski has stored some long cardboard strips for use with scenery. We are not sure if we can get them installed before the NMRA visit or not.

Bob added that Milo Poulin has done a good job on the quarry and power plant. Bob has fixed the switch control panel on the back of the layout so that the LEDs now work.

John Spach asked if the station could be put in place for the visit. Tom Garren said that was no problem.

Ken Howard wants to get some scenery down on Module 4 so we do not have a plywood prairie.

S Gauge – George List reported that he enjoyed attending the Open House. All equipment ran well. Also, we are working to sell some surplus S gauge equipment and having good luck doing that.

O Gauge – George Sawyer reported that some rewiring is needed on the layout. This work will not begin until after the Fall show.

George also reported that there is some equipment that we need to sell and will do so by placing it on consignment with Mike's Trains in Thomasville.

There are also several boxes of O gauge donations that need to be priced. This includes two ready to run sets and other items that will go on sale at the show.

8. Old Business

Fall Show

Bob Witwer reported that the order has been placed with the Fairgrounds for the tables, chairs, electrical drops, mats, and security for the Fall Show. All tables have been reserved, and we have a waiting list of six persons.

The Fairgrounds staff is concerned that we may be too close to the front of the exhibit hall with our tables. The concern is that the pathway to the big exit doors may need to be expanded to satisfy the Fire Marshall. We will adjust as needed.

Bernie Dawson reported that staffing is coming along. He is now to the point where he will need to call people to complete the staffing plan. We are pretty well staffed now from volunteers, but we want to be sure everyone has a chance to participate at the show.

Ted Kunstling will boost the ad for our show again. He also needs to post the information about the advance ticket sales.

Randy Foulke has bought four more sandwich signs. We will have the inserts printed locally.

John Wallis is continuing to work on securing door prizes for the show.

The Raffle layout is under construction with another month to go before the show.

Shaefer O'Neill reported the lanyards for use at the show should arrive on Wednesday. These will be made available to our members, vendors, and layout personnel working at the show.

Kelly Darden will work with Ted Kunstling to determine what is required to post the link to our advance ticket page on Facebook. He has sent the text of an email to be sent to the members later this week about the show and the availability of advance tickets. This note should also go to our vendors.

Kelly also reported that the show advertisement has been posted to the two City of Raleigh public calendars. He has also sent notices to fifty groups at NC State. In early November we will do daily advertising on the Raleigh Events page previously discussed with the Show committee.

Schaefer O'Neill will work with our bank to learn how to connect our credit card machines to a hot spot so we have backup connectivity for these devices. He will also get help with the daily close-out report from the machines.

9. New Business

2nd Annual Club Dinner

We have received one estimate for the second annual Club Dinner. There are some concerns about the cost of this estimate. It is suggested that we continue to look for other options. Several ideas were suggested to be investigated. Look for more information on this event in the near future. We are looking for a date in January or February.

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by George Sawyer. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.