

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Membership Meeting of October 17, 2024**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice President Ken Howard.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Clif Kelly.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance and on Zoom

Members attending in person were Wayne Aiken, Ely Carter-Williamson, Bernie Dawson, Pete Donofrio, Tom Garren, Kevin Harrington, Mike Hinman, Ken Howard, Clif Kelly, Chuck Larnerd, Terry Luft, Mike Marsh, Don McPherson, Schaefer O'Neill, Greg Rehe, Alan Servas, John Spach, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom were Alan Bradley, Haydon Harrison, Paul Lebiedzinski, Gordon Lucas, Collin Martinko, Milo Poulin, and Elliot Susseles.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

There were three guests in attendance this evening. Kyle Thomas attended in person. This is his third meeting. Chris Kehoe and Robert Spohr both attended by Zoom. This is the second meeting for Chris and the first meeting for Robert.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

6. Show and Tell

Ely Carter-Williamson shared a new version of the old Railroad Tycoon game that runs on a DOS simulator.

7. Communications with the Club

John Spach shared a message from Randy Foulke. There will be no ginger bread village this year at the Fairgrounds. Look for it to return in 2025.

Ken Howard reported that we have reserved four tables for the Mebane Train show. We also have the possibility to add two more tables if they become available. The show will be on March 8<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. We need to make sure the credit card machine will work there on cellular.

There will also be a train show in Greensboro on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Ken Howard also announced that Brookdale Senior Living will bring a group of seniors to visit the Club on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. We will need members here to run the layouts.

Bob Witwer also mentioned the Atria Senior Living has requested a visit too. We will need to coordinate with them to set a date. Tuesdays have been good for this type of event.

Tom Garren relayed a message from Randy Foulke. John Janowski from Goldsboro is seriously ill and in the hospital.

## 8. Committee Reports

### a. Membership Committee

Clif Kelly reported that we have 98 members. We also have two applicants for membership. Chris Kehoe has applied for Youth membership and Kyle Thomas has applied for Associate membership. Bob Witwer made a motion to accept both Chris and Kyle as members of the Club. The motion was seconded by Schaefer O'Neill and passed unanimously.

Clif also noted that we have an application from Josh Crane who is applying for Senior membership. Also Robert Spohr is attending by Zoom tonight.

### b. Ways and Means

John Spach explained the process we must go through to update the Constitution of the Club. There will be three readings after which there will be an up or down vote on the proposed changes. The process does not allow for changes to be made during the reading process.

Ken Howard noted that the membership should have received two documents from Tom Garren, the annotated Constitution showing the proposed changes, and a second document showing the final appearance of the document as amended. Most of the changes are typo fixes as well as cleaning up the document to reflect the bylaws and how we do business today. The major change is to reduce the majority required to revise the constitution from 75% down to 66% of Senior members.

### c. House

John Spach noted that we need two volunteers to lead two teams making up the House committee. These are an outside lead and an inside lead. The outside lead will make sure the bushes are kept trimmed and the pine straw is blown away and do whatever is necessary to keep the weeds down in front. The inside lead makes sure we have appropriate cleaning materials available, make sure someone takes out the trash, and sees that the carpet and bathrooms are kept clean. Neither lead is expected to do all the work by themselves. They should each form a team to help them achieve the goals.

John Spach noted that Collin Martinko has done a good job as the head of the House committee. However, with both work and school constraints on his time, he needs to step down from this position. Thanks Collin for a job well done.

d. Engineering Committee

N Scale – Bernie Dawson reported that work on the N scale layout has been suspended until the T Trak modules are completed for display at the show. The theme of the modules is a down east tobacco farm.

HO – Ken Howard reported that Milo Poulin has been doing yeoman work on the quarry, power plant, and substation. Module 4 trackwork and building placement has begun. The plans are to make the interior yard accessible to tracks 3 and 4. This work is being done by Peter Donofrio, Rick Calfee, and Ken Howard. Plans are to have this work finished after the show.

Wiring issues have been reported by members. These problems have been diagnosed and repaired by Chuck Larnerd and Ralph James. They discovered that on one part of the layout the track was being used to power another section rather than using drops to the power bus. Also there were two connections between Mains 1 and 2 that were removed by Chuck and Ralph. Finally, masking tape may be observed on the layout where work may be needed to assure proper power routing through the switches.

Ken further reported that we have added seven new pieces of rolling stock to the Club inventory bringing us up to 336 pieces. There is a new N&W passenger train that can be run. Jake Forbes has converted an Atlas caboose to NRV X9500 as well as some new hopper cars.

The next HO committee meeting will be Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

S Gauge – John Spach reported that the S gauge layout is doing well.

O Gauge – Schaefer O'Neill reported that trouble with some switches has been found and fixed. Some gondolas will be turned into scrap iron cars. The circus train was run during the recent open house. Some issues with DCS on tracks 2 and 3 have been identified and are being repaired. Also, the team has gone through a large donation.

G gauge – Alan Servas has cleaned the track recently. John Spach reported the layout ran well during the October Open House.

Shop – John Spach reported that Mike Hinman will now coordinate Shop materials and tools. There is a new set of nut drivers and a precision screwdriver set that are stored in racks 3D printed by Mike. If you have Shop questions, contact Mike Hinman first, then John Spach.

Wayne Aiken noted that we added some new tools to the Shop from the Tom Tiemann donation.

e. Program Committee

Nothing to report tonight.

f. Social Committee

Schaefer O'Neill reviewed information about the Amherst trip in January. Due to a change in Amtrak scheduling, the train trip will now be 15.5 hours versus a 10 hour drive. Schaefer is planning on driving to the show. There may be more members wishing to drive. Flying is also a possibility on either Breeze or Frontier to Hartford. Schaefer and Randy could pick you up there. Also Schaefer or Randy could pick you up at the train station if you choose to ride the train. Realize you arrive between midnight and 1:00 am. A van may be rented for the trip, also, if there are enough people going. Transportation details will be worked out a bit later on.

The show itself is 352,000 square feet with some 17,000 visitors last year. It runs from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sunday. Plans would be to go up on Friday and return on Monday.

9. Old Business

a. Fall Show

Bob Witwer stated that the show is sold out with 74 vendors, all of whom have paid for their tables. We are looking forward to a very good show.

Bob shared that there are two ways to get into the show. The first is to have your name on the staffing list for the show and work at the show. We currently need volunteers to be porters on Friday afternoon and again on Sunday afternoon. If your name is on the staffing list you will get a lanyard with a name card that allows you to come to the show for free. You will also get a show tee shirt commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the show. Once again, your name must be on the staffing list to get the lanyard and ID tag and a tee shirt. If you have not signed up to work, you will be charged the usual ten dollars for a ticket to get into the show.

Plans are to give out the lanyards and shirts on Thursday night at the truck loading at the Club or on Friday at the show.

Bernie Dawson stated the deadline for signing up is on Wednesday before the show. It is preferred that you sign up by the Sunday before the show. We are short on porters and also need help on Sunday morning.

Thanks go out to Schaefer O'Neill for providing the lanyards and badges for vendors, layout support people, and Club members.

Members are also encouraged to print out flyers to share with friends, family, and places you frequent. Please help get the word out on the show.

Finally, we need a photographer to take good quality pictures at the show. We will use to publicize next year. Send pictures to Bob Witwer or Tom Garren.

John Spach reported the raffle layout is well underway. If by Sunday, the young guys need some help, please be ready to step up to complete the project.

b. Shirts

Collin Martinko reported that he has sent in a small order for shirts. This is for three people and the Club order of caps for inventory.

c. MER Tour

Members were reminded that we have a visit on October 18<sup>th</sup> from attendees of the NMRA Mid-East Region conference currently happening in Durham. We need volunteers to make sure all layouts are running for our guests. We will be open from 10:00 am through 2:00 pm.

10. New Business

None.

11. Program

Wayne Aiken presented a program on the Club Library. This showed how the library is organized, how to check out books, and how to use databases to learn what is in the library. At this time we have over 2,500 books and over 12,000 magazines.

12. Good and Welfare of the Club

Tom Garren provided a shout out to Mike Hinman for 3D printing clips that can be used to hold members' walking canes. These have been installed in strategic locations for those with canes to use. Thanks Mike.

13. Adjournment

Bob Witwer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.