

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of November 17, 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 who attended were Ely Carter-Williamson, Jake Forbes, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Don McPherson, Greg Rehe, John Spach, and Bob Witwer. Paul Lebedzinski attended via Zoom.

3. Time to Get Back to Work

Ken Howard noted that the show is over and it is time to get back to work on the HO layout. Several projects are underway including:

Paul Lebedzinski is working on the lumber camp. Bob Witwer and Paul are working together on the track. Bob will also make a new panel for the lumber camp and add switches and lights to the existing panel for the wye to accommodate the power plant siding.

Paul Lebedzinski is manufacturing trees for Mount Witwer.

Paul and Bob will also start on the installation of plaster on the mountain in the next couple of weeks. Greg Rehe will also help with this project.

Milo Poulin will continue to work on the quarry and power plant.

4. Proposed Plans

Module 4 is being worked by Ken Howard, Pete Donofrio, and Rick Calfee. Collin Martinko will supply an interlocking the tower, and Mike Hinman will do the wiring.

We need Liam Bryant to make a tunnel portal for Mains 1 and 2. The portals should be sufficiently tall to allow double stacks to pass underneath on Main 1 and maybe on Main 2 also.

5. Known Problems

Tom Garren stated that we have a problem passing six axle diesels on Main 2 near the industrial area. This will be diagnosed one day in the future by Ken Howard and Tom.

The LocoNet cables on the back side of the layout need connector repair.

Dan Egy stated that several switches need nail polish reapplied to the frogs.

6. Inventory Changes

Jake Forbes recommended that two cars be removed from the Club inventory. These were an ACL 50' box car and a Monon gondola. These were inventory numbers 161 and 277. Greg Rehe bought the ACL boxcar. The gondola was placed for public sale.

7. Brookdale Visit

Ken Howard reminded everyone that we have a visit from Brookdale Senior Living scheduled for Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. Volunteers are requested to help John Wallis, George Sawyer, and Don McPherson receive our guests.

8. Proposed Future Plans

Collin Martinko has submitted two plans to alter part of the legacy layout and change some parts of the yet unfinished extension.

The first plan involves modification of Modules 4 through 8 and includes removal of Main 3 and the mountain scene on Module 6.

The second plan submitted calls for changes to be made to the extension which has yet to be completed. The consensus of the members in attendance was to complete the current plans before we begin making changes there.

Ken Howard established a procedure for receiving comments on these suggestions. Comments by members should be sent by email to Ken. The communication should include both general thoughts and what you would like to see as we continue to improve the HO layout. Interested parties who were not at the meeting can get electronic copies of the plans from Ken.

9. Layout Software

We still do not have access to track planning software. Randy Foulke is leading a subcommittee to investigate possible candidates for this software. Jake Forbes is also helping on that subcommittee. Randy will be asked to continue with this effort and recommend the product we should obtain.

10. Comments

Bob Witwer reminded everyone that work on the expansion started in February of 2022.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 pm.