

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Membership Meeting of November 21, 2024**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance  
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President John Spach.  
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, Alan Bradley, Richard Calfee, Bernie Dawson, Pete Donofrio, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Haydon Harrison, Brian Heaton, Ken Howard, Chris Kehoe, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, Chuck Larnerd, Mike Marsh, Larry Martin, Don McPherson, Greg Rehe, George Sawyer, Alan Servas, James Smith, John Spach, Kyle Thomas, John Wallis, Don Weaver, Ron Wertenberg, and Bob Witwer.  
  
Members attending by Zoom were Bill Butler, Ely Carter-Willamson, Mike Hinman, Paul Lebieczinski, Gordon Lucas, Larry Pearlman, and Joe Scales.
  
3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom  
There were four guests in attendance this evening. Gerald Powell attended in person. This is his second meeting. Adam McDonald, Rebecca Noel, and Walt Wu attended by Zoom. This is the first meeting for all three of these guests.
  
4. Meeting Announcement  
John Spach announced a new practice for our Club meetings. The majority of Club business will be transacted at the monthly Board meeting. A summary of the Board meeting will be given at the monthly Membership meeting allowing more time for more fun and social activities.
  
5. Minutes of the Last Meeting  
John Wallis made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Alan Bradley and passed unanimously.
  
6. Treasurers Report  
In the absence of Schaefer O'Neill, John Spach gave an abbreviated Treasurer's report. The final figures for the Fall show are still being compiled and should be ready at the December Board meeting. Also, some money has been moved to a fund that pays more interest.
  
7. Show and Tell  
Nothing tonight. Members are reminded to bring items for Show and Tell at the monthly Membership meeting.

8. Communications with the Club

Richard Calfee reported speaking with a lady named Karen looking to donate her father's HO trains.

Tom Garren reported speaking with Colleen Scrimshaw. She wants to donate the trains of her late husband. This has been turned over to John Spach as he lives near Mrs. Scrimshaw.

Randy Foulke reported there will be no ginger bread village (Ukrainian Relief Fund) this year at the Fairgrounds. Look for it to return in 2025. This is an event where Steve Wills' Lego layout was displayed with help from Club members.

9. Ways and Means

Tonight was the third reading of the proposed constitutional changes. Alan Bradley did the third reading which was followed immediately by a vote on the changes. The Board interprets the rules to be a 75% vote of Senior members present is required to pass the proposed changes. Twenty four votes were cast, with twenty one for, two against, and one abstention. The proposed changes to the constitution passed.

10. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Clif Kelly reported that we have two applicants for membership tonight. Gerald Powell is applying for Associate membership, and Josh Crane is applying for Senior membership. Alan Bradley made a motion to accept both Gerald Powell and Josh Crane as members of the Club. The motion was seconded by George Sawyer and passed unanimously.

John Spach announced that George Lasley has resigned from the Club. We wish George well and let him know that he is welcome back at any time, either as a member or a guest.

b. House

John Spach noted that we still need two volunteers to lead two teams making up the House committee. These are an outside lead and an inside lead. Since no one has stepped up to take either of these jobs, John Spach voluntold two members. Mike Hinman will be the lead on outside maintenance and Richard Calfee will be the lead on inside maintenance.

Also, thanks to Mike Hinman for mounting the railroad crossing sign on the front of the building.

Don McPherson agreed to work on Calfee's inside team.

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. There are thirteen modules to be developed.

HO – Ken Howard reported that work was slowed due to the show. However, progress has been made on wiring issues under the mountain. Milo Poulin has made more progress on the quarry and power plant.

Ken also stated that some of our younger members have advanced some proposals for changes to the legacy layout. There will not be any decisions on this until sometime in January. There will be no December HO committee meeting. Members are requested to send Ken your comments via email on the design proposals.

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

O Gauge – George Sawyer reported their time is being spent pricing donations and working on wiring on the O gauge layout.

G gauge – Alan Servas has been asked to investigate power problems on the outer loop. He thinks additional power drops may be needed.

e. Program Committee

John Wallis reported that we have programs lined up through October of 2025. The program for our January meeting will be provided by Bill Hanley on weathering with acrylics.

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke reported that the committee is still working on the Club dinner for either January or February next year. Look for more information on that next month.

The Amherst trip is still being planned. There are several travel possibilities. Some may drive: you can also take the train or fly. Please let Randy Foulke or John Wallis know in December if you are planning on going to Amherst. The final details will be worked out next month.

11. Old Business

a. Fall Show

Bob Witwer gave a report on the Fall show. We had a full show with over 100 vendors. Several new things were tried at this show including Blue Light Specials for vendors that donated a door prize and Train Talk tables that worked with varying success.

For future shows we want more door prize donations.

It should be noted that we had great participation from our Club members and everybody working hard to make the show a success. We do need more help to provide porters on Sunday evening after the show closes.

The final figures for the show will be determined as the last bills are paid.

The Spring show will be in the same building on May 3-4, 2025. We will use the same floor plan as we had for the Fall show. We will have more food selection at the show.

The Fall show in 2025 will be back in the Jim Graham building. The Fall show will remain on the second weekend in November.

b. Brookdale Visit

John Wallis reported that we had a successful visit from the Brookdale Senior Living in Chapel Hill. We had ten patients plus two staff members and one boyfriend. The visit went well with all of the layouts being run for our guests. Barbara Tate, our contact person with the firm is retiring at the end of the month. We wish her well in retirement. Thanks to John Wallis and everyone else that supported this visit.

12. New Business

a. Upcoming Shows

Ken Howard reported that the Club will once again be participating in two shows this winter. The Thomasville show is in February. We do not yet have the details for this show. The second show is the Mebane Train Show on March 8<sup>th</sup>. We will have at least four tables, maybe six at this show.

We try to participate in shows that we can drive to in two hours or less and are one day in duration. In this way no one has to stay overnight. If you are aware of other shows that meet these criteria, please let Ken Howard know. Also, let Ken know if you would like to help at either of these shows.

b. Club Sales

John Spach shared with everyone that we average around \$100.00 per weekend from sales at the Clubhouse. This is to both members and guests. Please check the for sale items, as they change frequently.

c. Apparel

Randy Foulke stated that he is working on some additional items with our apparel vendor. We should have more information on these items by the January Board meeting. We are ordering two boxes of hats for stock at the Clubhouse.

John Spach asked Randy to set up a quarterly schedule for apparel orders.

d. What's new in the Library

Wayne Aiken shared several new books that will be placed in the Library: an equipment roster from Seaboard Air Line Railway in 1966,. two Morning Sun books, one book on the Western Maryland, and one book on Alco diesels. There are also two books on Lionel, one of which lists the sets that were made for Sears in years gone by. There is also a book on animating things on a layout from the older (pre-

computer) days, as well as several other items. This update will become a regular feature of Show and Tell in upcoming months.

e. Security Update

Mike Hinman reported that he removed the outdoor spigot handle and placed it in the top drawer of the file cabinet in the Library. This was done because someone turned on the outdoor spigot on the building next door, and it ran for hours before Mike noticed it and turned it off.

13. Program

Peter Donofrio presented an interesting program on the Broadway Limited.

14. Adjournment

John Wallis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Randy Foulke and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 pm.