

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of December 02, 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 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, Randy Foulke, Clif Kelly, and John Wallis.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Haydon Harrison, Gordon Lucas, and Greg Rehe.

We had one guest tonight, Robert Spohr attended by Zoom. This is the third meeting for Robert. We are awaiting an application from Robert, who models in N scale.

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 George Sawyer and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

In the discussion that followed, it was noted that the Board is the body that approves the moving of money from one fund to another. John Spach also reminded the group that the Ways and Means committee is charged with coming up with a budget so that we can better track our expenses and make appropriations for exceptional needs.

Schaefer O'Neill will check with our bank to see if they support more than one brand of credit card machine.

George Sawyer made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

Ken Howard reported that the Club has received several donations in the last few weeks.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Clif Kelly reported that we could have as many as four new applicants for membership if we receive two applications and everyone has attended their two meetings as of the December Membership meeting.

b. Ways and Means

John Spach thanked the Ways and Means committee for their work on successfully getting the Bylaws and Constitution revised. Their next assignment will be to prepare a Club budget that will include approved maintenance funds for each layout and area of the Club.

c. Facilities

John Spach reminded everyone that Richard Calfee is now the indoor lead and Mike Hinman is the outdoor lead on the facilities committee. Mike Hinman has installed a larger solar panel on the outdoor camera that monitors the storage room doors on the building.

d. Engineering

N Scale – John Wallis reported that work continues to progress on the T Trak modules. Also, there is an N scale committee meeting scheduled for December 14th.

John Spach noted that we have a 4x4 base in the rear storage room that could be developed into an N scale layout for raffle at the next show. The committee is requested to begin planning this layout and provide lists of materials needed to make it happen.

HO – Ken Howard reported Milo Poulin and Collin Martinko are working on the power plant area and the industrial area on the extension. Also, the track work has started on the Module 4 reconstruction. Work is ready to begin on forming the mountain on the extension. Ken also reported that at this time we have no operational issues on the HO layout. John Spach reported that we recently ran three trains on Main 1 simultaneously for an extended period of time.

O Gauge

George Sawyer reported that much work is being done to price donated O gauge items. He is expecting help from Larry Martin beginning in January.

Schaefer O'Neill requested funds to purchase a MTH TIU for the O gauge layout. Tom Garren made a motion to approve up to \$450.00 for this purchase. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

John Spach requested that the Board be kept informed as to what is happening with consignment sales.

e. Program Committee

John Wallis reported that we have programs lined up through August of 2025. The program for December will be Randy Foulke on Alco PA locomotives.

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke reported that he has interest from six people for the Amherst trip: five going by road and one going by air. Randy is suggesting the group stay at a Quality Inn near the show location. John Spach reminded everyone that the Amherst trip is not a Club function. We are not insured for this type of event.

Randy is also working on future trips to visit other model railroad clubs in our area.

The Club family dinner is being planned by the social committee. Information is being gathered by George Sawyer. Dates being explored include the last two weeks of January or the first week of February. The committee will report back to the Board in January.

Ken Howard noted that Christmas and New Year's occur on Wednesday this season. Denise at Barry's Café asked if we would like to move our breakfast meeting for those two weeks or just cancel. After some discussion it was decided to move the breakfast meetings for the week of December 25th and January 1st to Friday, the 27th and the 3rd. This will be noted in the Whistle Post and in a note to members.

7. Old Business

a. Insurance

John Spach held a discussion about Club insurance. He verified that we need an inventory of Club assets in May for tax purposes. We are very much under insured for the contents of our building. After a good discussion Bob Witwer was asked to get pricing for contents insurance or both \$25,000 and \$50,000 valuation. The Board will make a decision once these proposals are available.

b. Hot Water

John Spach reintroduced the topic of getting hot water added back to the building. After a discussion it was decided that Ken Howard would contact Mike Marsh and see if his company can do the work and what the costs would be for several options.

8. New Business

a. Spring Show

Bob Witwer gave a report on the upcoming Spring show. We already have preregistrations totaling over 250 tables. There are some vendors that cannot attend the Spring show. As more is known about the total number of tables needed for vendors, the floor plan can be adjusted to meet that need and give the maximum space available for layouts.

We have picked up six new sponsors from preregistration. Also, some other clubs in the area have asked to also be show sponsors.

The new flyer for the show was discussed and a draft version examined. Comments included making the printing green this time to honor Spring.

Ken Howard shared information about a site called trainshow.com. This may be a place to spread the word on our shows. Bob Witwer will investigate.

b. Apparel

Randy Foulke gave an update on Club apparel. Two boxes of hats are on order. Blue oxford button-down shirts may be hard to get. He is still working with the vendor on this. Other colors may also be a possibility.

Hoodies can be ordered in black, burgundy, or green. The same is true of cadet collar sweat shirts. There may be even more colors available in the cadet collar shirts.

Randy will pursue information on availability and color on regular sweat shirts.

John Spach stated that we do not want to change the color of the logo. After some discussion, the statement was modified to say the logo will be in gold with the center being the color of the shirt for shirts and sweats. For tee shirts the logo should be gold with a burgundy center.

9. Good and Welfare of the Club

Ken Howard suggested that we develop a procedure to check up on members that we have not seen in a while. This could also include members that we have dropped without contact. No specific action was taken on this item tonight.

John Spach shared a note from Ted Kunstling thanking the Club for the card recently sent to him.

10. Adjournment

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.