

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Membership Meeting of December 19, 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, Ely Carter-Williamson, Pete Donofrio, Randy Foulke, Brian Heaton, Mike Hinman, Clif Kelly, Don McPherson, John Mezera, Greg Rehe, George Sawyer, Alan Servas, James Smith, John Spach, and John Wallis.

Members attending by Zoom were Ed Bottum, Bill Butler, Tom Garren, Ted Kunstling, George List, Milo Poulin, Elliot Susseles, Brylan Teague, and Bob Witwer.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

Robert Spohr attended by Zoom. He is eligible for membership tonight.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

John Wallis made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by George Sawyer and passed unanimously.

5. Treasurers Report

In the absence of Schaefer O'Neill, John Spach gave the Treasurer's report. Alan Bradley made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Ely Carter-Williamson and passed unanimously.

John Spach also noted that we have lost money in the donation fish bowl and in the drink cup in the fridge. He requested that if you have borrowed money from either of these locations please return it by putting it in an envelope and placing it in the black box in the Library.

6. Show and Tell

Ely Carter-Williamson shared pictures he had taken of the Clinchfield Santa train. It was especially memorable this year as the area was severely impacted by Hurricane Helene.

Randy Foulke showed some containers he had obtained for storing and carrying N scale cars.

John Spach noted the array of PA models on display that will complement the program tonight.

Wayne Aiken showed a completed Ambroid kit of a Southern covered hopper in HO.

7. Communications with the Club

There were no new communications with the Club prior to the meeting.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Clif Kelly reported that we have one applicant eligible for membership tonight.

Robert Spohr has applied for Associate membership. Don McPherson made a motion to accept Robert Spohr as a member of the Club. The motion was seconded by Alan Bradley and passed unanimously.

b. Ways and Means

John Spach noted that the Ways and Means committee is working on budget proposal for next year.

c. House

Mike Hinman is planning a work session to clean up vines and growth around the building. Look for an announcement on this session soon.

John Spach noted that we still have problem people leaving food containers in the trash cans. Members are reminded to take all food containers with them when they leave the building. It would be even better to take the entire bag of trash home and dispose of it as we do not have trash pickup at the Club.

d. Engineering Committee

N scale – John Wallis reported the N scale committee met last Saturday. A plan is being developed for the raffle layout for the Spring show. The group is still working on their T Trak modules. An inventory of N scale equipment is underway.

HO scale – Bob Witwer reported that he and Paul Lebedinski have put up the cardboard base for the mountain. They will get some help from Collin Martinko to install the plaster cloth on the mountain. Bob has installed a switch motor on the power plant siding. Next he will install a new switch in the logging camp and build new switch panel for the logging camp.

S scale – George List reported that the S scale layout is stable for now. He has recently repaired one locomotive.

O gauge – George Sawyer reported a kink in the track has been fixed. The team is still working on a wiring upgrade for next year to get various Lionel and MTH control systems operating throughout the layout. Who will install the new TIU will be determined, as well as how to control it. The new TIU appears to be controlled by an app on a smartphone. Schaefer O'Neill may have a solution for that situation.

G gauge- Alan Servas reported that he has cleaned the track as far as he can reach. He will need to move the S scale layout so he can access the corner of the G gauge track that is above the S layout. Alan believes that more power drops are needed to

improve performance on the G layout. He also found that momentum should be turned off on the power packs for better performance.

John Spach reminded all layout teams that we need inventories for insurance purposes.

e. Program Committee

John Wallis reported that we have programs lined up through October of 2025.

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke reported that the committee has a recommendation for our Club dinner. The proposal is to have the dinner on Wednesday, January 29th at the Golden Corral at the intersection of S. Wilmington Street and Tryon Road. Everyone will pay their own way; we will be in the private room. After some discussion it was decided to have a Yankee Swap for a post seasonal gift exchange.

9. Old Business

a. Amherst Trip

Randy Foulke gave an update on the Amherst trip. Eight people are signed up to go. They will leave on January 24th and return on January 27th. There are some travel options, please let Randy know of your travel plans.

It should be noted that this trip is not an NRV sanctioned trip. Rather, it is a private trip of several people.

b. Insurance Update

Bob Witwer reported that we have increased the amount of contents insurance at the Club to \$100,000. This coverage is currently in effect and will renew in February. We have been advised to have inventories of our equipment and layouts with pictures.

c. Library Report

Wayne Aiken reported that we have several new books in the Library. These include:
A 2002 Official Equipment Register of American railroads,
A Plastistruct catalog,
A listing of O 40 foot wood refers,
An operations rule book created and used by a number of model railroads,
Locomotive and tender diagrams of the Los Angeles and Salt Lake RR,
A reference book on N scale locomotives from 2006 – 2009
An N scale layout book,
A book entitled High Iron,
As well as a few magazines.

d. Event Brite

George Sawyer noted that Event Brite has been set up for the Spring show. Bob Witwer stated that the flyers have been updated. Please share with your friends and get them to post the flyer on their social media accounts. Help spread the word.

10. New Business

a. Charity Donation

John Spach announced that as is our custom, the Club will accept donations from the membership this month and again in January to be sent to two charities. The Club will match the first \$500.00. It is suggested that we might consider charities that have been active in helping with the hurricane recovery in Western North Carolina.

b. Wednesday Breakfast Changes for the Holidays

Please remember that due to Christmas and New Years holidays falling on Wednesday this year, our breakfasts have been rescheduled to Friday December 27th and Friday January 3rd.

11. Program

Randy Foulke made a presentation about Alco PA locomotives.

12. Good and Welfare of the Club

John Spach noted that both Tom Garren and Bob Witwer are sick.

13. Adjournment

Bob Witwer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 pm.