

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of January 06, 2025

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 Richard Calfee, 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 Wayne Aiken, Ely Carter-Williamson, Bernie Dawson, Clif Kelly, John Mezera, and John Wallis.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Haydon Harrison, Greg Rehe, Joe Scales, Robert Spohr, and Elliot Susseles.

We had one guest tonight, Alex Griswold attended by Zoom. This is his first meeting.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Ken Howard made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as submitted. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report. Bob Witwer made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

Richard Calfee reported he is working with a Mr. Smith from Apex. He would like us to remove an HO layout from a house. Richard will follow up and get more information about the potential donation including a picture of the layout.

George List has been helping a lady repair some S gauge equipment from her childhood. It has been reported that she is very happy with the work George List is doing for her.

George Sawyer reported the dates have been announced for the Thomasville show. It will take place on February 8th. We are reserving five tables for this show that will take place at the Thomasville Central Recreation Center.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Clif Kelly asked Robert Spohr about dues payment. The check is in the mail.

Alex Griswold attended his first meeting tonight. He has also been at the Club on the weekends. Alex models HO and reported that he likes modern freight, and his favorite railroad is the Santa Fe. He worked on the layout while he was in college at the Rochester Institute of Technology. George Sawyer noted that in his opinion Alex has

satisfied his meeting requirement by being at the Club several times over recent weekends.

b. Ways and Means

John noted that the Ways and Means committee can now begin their work on the Club budget. They will work with Treasurer Schaefer O'Neill and report back to the Board.

c. Facilities

John Spach reminded everyone to take their food wrappers and containers home when they leave the building. It was noted that Jake Forbes had left food trash in a trash can in the Crew Lounge. Schaefer O'Neill noted that a filter was left in the coffee maker that had molded and began to smell. John Spach reminded everyone that the floor drains in the two rest rooms need a small amount of water poured in them to maintain the seal in the p trap that prevents odors from coming into the building from the sewer.

John Spach also stated that an outdoor work session will be scheduled for a Saturday when the weather warms up. This session will trim bushes and clean up the landscaping around the building. People with trucks will be needed to haul away the debris.

George Sawyer shared with the Club that there are screws missing from the front door lock. It is felt that we should have a locksmith perform this repair as one of the screws has been broken off.

d. Engineering

N Scale – Bernie Dawson reported that the N scale team has a meeting this Saturday morning. The N scale team is working on three different fronts: the N scale layout, the T Trak modules, and the raffle layout for the Spring show.

There is some concern on how to clean off the foam for reuse on the raffle layout. John Spach suggested covering areas of concern with plaster cloth. Bernie believes we have enough track in stock to build the layout. The group will need some N scale rolling stock for the raffle layout. They have one decent DC engine that can be used for the layout.

Bernie would like to get some plaques to put on the sides of the T Trak modules. This will identify them as part of the Club and advertise the Club at the same time. He believes that he will need eleven plaques. Bernie will come back to the Board with a specific request in the future.

HO – Ken Howard reported that Mt. Witwer has been plastered. The tunnel portals for the front side of Tiemann tunnel have been installed. The portals for the back side of the tunnel near the industrial area are under construction at this time by Liam Bryant.

Paul Lebedinski has completed track modifications on the staging tracks under the mountain to improve their operation. This includes installing a crossover that allows easy access to Mains 1 and 2 regardless of which track is used to build the train.

There has been some activity in the industrial area. Ken is working with Collin Martinko to get an update on these activities.

The rebuild of Module 4 is underway. The track plan has been completed and work should start on this area on Wednesday.

Bob Witwer has installed the switch motors on the power plant area. He will next install the switch motors on the logging camp then undertake to build a new control panel for those switches.

Ken Howard added that the logging camp has been re-supported and is now level. It is ready to have the switch motors installed and be sceniced.

John Spach stated that the underside of the HO layout is a mess. We need to clean this up and once again organize the materials stored there. Also, the tables near the staging tracks should be kept clean so they can be used by the people that are using the staging tracks. It was also noted that we need to finish one area before we start another area. Ken stated that he will remind people of all this at the next meeting of the HO committee scheduled for Sunday, January 19th.

S Gauge - John Spach and Tom Garren shared a request from George List for funding to procure a UP Northern steam engine and a Santa Fe Alco A unit. This is estimated to cost \$300.00. A motion was made by Schaefer O'Neill and seconded by Richard Calfee to approve \$300.00 for these acquisitions. The motion passed unanimously.

O Gauge - George Sawyer reported that we have the new TIU that was purchased for the O gauge layout. He needs old cell phones to be used to control the unit. Schaefer O'Neill stated that he may have several used Android phones that could be donated. If that is the case, and there is a sufficient quantity, the HO team and N team would also like some of the phones to be used for locomotive control. Schaefer will verify the number of phones his company will be able to donate. George Sawyer also reported that he has done some soldering work on the track with successful results.

G Scale – John Spach made everyone aware of the problems we are having with the G scale track cleaning device that we have. He proposed that we sell the device and revert to manually cleaning the track on the G scale layout. Joe Scales wondered if we were missing a part on the device. After some discussion, a motion was made by Ken Howard to sell the track cleaner. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

e. Program Committee

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

f. Social Committee

Tom Garren gave a report for Randy Foulke.

The Amherst trip will have six members and one spouse attending. This is not an NRV sanctioned event.

Randy is working with Ken Mitchell to arrange a visit to the Lionel headquarters in Concord, NC. Since Lionel is not open on Saturday or Sunday, the trip will probably be scheduled on a Friday.

John Wallis reported that the Club dinner is scheduled for January 29th at the Golden Corral at the corner of Hwy 401 and Tryon Road. The event will also have a “Dirty Santa” gift exchange. The time is 6:00 pm. Look for more information in the January Whistle Post.

Randy is hoping to restart the Rules committee in February. He requests that the Board review the work done last fall. The Board requests that Randy resubmit this work to them for their review.

7. Old Business

a. Upcoming Local Shows

We will participate in two upcoming train shows

Thomasville on February 8th

Mebane on March 8th

These are both one day shows that have been very successful for our Club sales in the past few years.

John Wallis also announced that North Raleigh will once again have an N scale layout on display at the Herb Young center in Cary on April 12th.

b. Spring Show

Bob Witwer gave a report on the upcoming Spring show. He is expecting the proofs of the flyers for review tomorrow. The ads for the show have been submitted to the magazines in which we advertise. The vendor applications are being reworked and should be ready to send out along with the terms and conditions in a week or so. The next Show committee meeting will be held on January 29th at 11:00 am.

c. New Checks

Schaefer O’Neill advised the Board that he has obtained new checks for the Club with the correct address on them.

8. New Business

Joe Scales thanked the Club for the get well card we sent him recently.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Bob Witwer. It was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.