

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of February 03, 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 Ely Carter-Williamson, Bernie Dawson, Clif Kelly, Chuck Larnerd, and John Mezera.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Erik Dyke, Alex Griswold, Scott Hall, Mike Hinman, Ted Kunstling, George List, Adam McDonald, Milo Poulin, Greg Rehe, and John Wallis.

We had three guests tonight all attending by Zoom: This is the first meeting for both Jeff Cole and Christopher Taschner. Rich Marrello attended his second meeting tonight. He will be submitting his application.

### 3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

George Sawyer 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.

We are starting to receive payments from vendors for the upcoming Spring show. Checks have been sent for our annual charity donation to Samaritan's Purse and Food Connection.

Also, our insurance has been paid for another year.

Schaefer noted that Spectrum needs access to our building to upgrade our internet equipment. Mike Hinman has been asked to work with them.

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

### 5. Communications with the Club

Richard Calfee reported a call from a gentleman from the Durham library, looking for someone to provide a program on model railroading.

A lady named Karen left a message wanting to discuss possibly donating German houses from her father's collection.

Schaefer O'Neill reported a letter we have received from a gentleman who is looking to sell or donate a large Lionel collection. Schaefer is following up with him.

Ken Howard reported talking to a lady who wanted some Club member to come to her house and help her son set up a layout. Ken let her know that we do not do that but invited her to come by and see what we do offer at the Club.

## 6. Committee Reports

### a. Membership

Clif Kelly reported that we have 104 members. All dues are paid except for a couple of new members. He also had our two new applicants introduce themselves. Jeff Cole has applied for a Senior membership. He models HO scale. Christopher Taschner has also applied to become a Senior member. He models N scale.

### b. Ways and Means

John Wallis reported that he will meet with Schaefer O'Neill to set up a schedule for meetings to create a budget for the Club.

### c. Facilities

John Spach stated that the inside of the Clubhouse is remaining clean at this time.

Mike Hinman gave a report on the outside cleanup work session. Mike thanked everyone that participated in the event. A special shout out goes to Alan Servas who provided an extensive set of tools for the cleanup and performed a lot of hard work, too. All the vines have been removed from the building. The vines along the side of the HO layout room will need to dry out before being hauled away. At some point in time, Mike would like to obtain permission from the landlord to put down plastic and stone in this area which will make it much easier to maintain.

### d. Engineering

N Scale – Bernie Dawson reported that the N scale team is concentrating on the raffle layout for the Spring show.

HO – Ken Howard reported the track has been installed on Module 4; the work has been done by a number of people. The diesel fueling and service facility is in place along with the caboose track. Power is currently switch routed in this area. More power drops will be added to improve the operation of this trackage.

A big thank you goes out to Chuck Larnerd for reworking and standardizing the wiring on Main 4.

Construction on the mountain is ongoing. Bob Witwer is installing the switch machines on the area of the lumber camp.

We have had two work days to consolidate materials. The usable track is now in one box and the usable switches (turnouts) are in two boxes - all now stored in our storage shed. In addition, we have gotten rid of excess foam, cardboard, and general clutter from under

the layout. The group also started work on consolidating the contents of several boxes, such as trees under the layout. Ely Carter-Williamson helped with that.

S gauge – George List reported that the S gauge layout is fine. There are two new acquisitions to the S gauge inventory. First is a Santa Fe Alco PA. This unit is wired AC and runs great. It is currently on the shelf and available if anyone wants to run it. Second, a Union Pacific 4-8-4 has been added to our inventory. This is the largest locomotive that Gilbert made in the American Flyer S gauge line. It was available in both AC and DC versions. The one we have acquired is a DC version.

O gauge – George Sawyer reported the main work at the moment is to complete an inventory of the O gauge equipment. He intends to put bar codes on the equipment to make future inventories easier. George also reported that the new WTIU has arrived and has been fired up. It needs a software update before being installed on the O gauge layout.

e. Program Committee

John Wallis reported we have programs scheduled through the end of 2025.

f. Social Committee

John Wallis reported that we had around 30 people at the family dinner last week. Randy Foulke requested via John Wallis that he Board review and approve parts of the Member Manual that was submitted last fall. The Board requested a current copy of the materials for review.

7. Old Business

a. Spring Show

Bob Witwer reported that the flyers for the Spring show have been printed. They are stored in boxes under the table in the Library for anyone that needs some. Vendor applications were sent out to our vendor database along with flyers a week and a half ago. Several responses have already been received back from the vendors. Bob further reported that Randy Foulke is working with the layout people to determine their space requirements for the show. We will work to accommodate as many of these requests as possible. There are some vendors that will not make the Spring show, which will give us more space for layouts.

b. Amherst Show

Bob Witwer stated that the Amherst show is in four buildings, roughly 350,000 square feet. At Amherst, approximately 40% of the available space was dedicated to layouts. Bob wanted to see how they integrated the layouts with the vendors around them. The show seemed to lack organization, no row 1, 2, 3 etc. This made it hard to relocate a vendor that you wanted to visit again. A second reason for Bob going to Amherst was to solicit vendors, sponsors, and door prizes for our shows. Bob made several good contacts in this area. It is hoped that some new vendors will come to our shows.

c. Upcoming Local Shows

Ken Howard reminded every one of the two upcoming local shows:

February 8<sup>th</sup> Thomasville from 9-5. The Club has rented five tables for this show.

March 8<sup>th</sup> Mebane from 9-2. The Club will rent six tables at this show.

In the last couple of years we have done well selling merchandise at these shows.

8. New Business

Facebook Update

Tom Garren reported that the Club Facebook page is in dire need of maintenance. By simply going to the Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club page from within Facebook, and scrolling down, a great deal of outdated material is displayed. This includes flyers for shows that taken place in the past and advertisements for Club breakfast at Courtney's. This restaurant has not been in business for several years.

Ted Kunstling stated that he was not familiar with the tools or methods needed to clean up our Facebook page. Ted will be glad to meet with us to better understand the need here and help, if needed, when we pick someone to do this cleanup.

At this time we are looking for someone with the knowledge, interest, and time take on the task of cleaning up the Facebook page for the Club. If you have any interest or questions about this task, please contact John Spach.

John Mezera volunteered to bring his camera and take new photos at our current breakfast location, Barry's Café. One of these pictures will be used put updated material on our Facebook page.

9. Adjournment

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.