

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

March, 2024



EDITORS NOTE

Spring is on its way! I for one can't wait for warm sunny weather and longer days. Work continues on all three of our model railroad layouts. Sessions are on Sundays from 1 to 3pm for the O gauge, N scale is on Mondays from 6:30 til 8:30pm and HO scale on Tuesdays from 1 to 4pm. We need help on all the layouts!

In about two weeks we will be hosting the Division 2 NMRA meeting on Sunday March 17th, 2024. The Society doors will open at noon. All members are welcome to attend.

The Spring Model Railroad open house is set for April 20 & 21, 2024. Please set aside some time to help out at the event. This will be our first chance to show off all the hard work members have accomplished during the Winter months.

As a reminder, Annual membership dues are now due. Please pay as promptly as possible. If you do not renew before March 31, you will be dropped from the membership.

Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

Rich Henderson, Editor



Minutes of the February 1, 2024 Business Meeting

Call to order by President Richard T. at 7:00pm with 6 officers and 7 members attending.

Minutes of the previous meeting:
Rich H. moved that we approve the minutes of the January 4th business meeting as published in the February 2024 newsletter, seconded by Frank B. Approval was unanimous after no discussion.

Treasurer's report (Keith D.):
The Society remains financially sound and able to meet it's obligations.

Publicity (Rich H.):
The Society Facebook page gained 4 new followers, raising the total to 1,334. Flyers for the spring 2024 Open House will be prepared soon. WAJR Radio's Talk of the Town program will interview an MVRHRS officer during an upcoming show.

Fundraising :(Richard T.)
Refer to the New Business section of this report for new fundraising proposals.

Meeting Minutes continued on Page 2

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**March 7, 2024
Business Meeting**

**March 17, 2024
NMRA Division 2
Meeting**

**April 4, 2024
Business Meeting**

**April 20 & 21 2024
Spring Open House
Workers Needed!**

**May 2, 2024
Business Meeting**

**June 6, 2024
Business Meeting**

**July 4, 2024
Business Meeting**



Minutes continued from Page 1

Membership: (Rich H.)

No new members joined during January. A new member roster will go out by March 31st.

Donations:(Rich H.)

Small donations received in the caboose. Ken C. received old railroad ID cards that may be of interest to some.

Old Business:

None reported.

New Business:

The MVRRHS Board of Directors met on January 23rd to set the budget and priorities for 2024. Estimated expenses remain at the levels projected for 2023. There was a modest carry over from last year. Meeting attendees were given the opportunity to review itemized budget handouts. The budget was approved unanimously after all member questions were answered.

Priorities for the coming year:

Enhanced lighting, including the addition of LED ceiling tile inserts and non-permanent adjustment of existing fixtures

Heating, possibly with electric radiators; seek estimates from contractors

Dehumidifier to protect benchwork and scenery materials

Add workshop space to lease agreement to formalize and protect our use

Remove / discard scrap materials and organize Society / member property, e.g. DC test track

Related to the climate control items, Wally V. suggested that we explore some form of in-ceiling ventilation.

Fundraising ideas (Richard T.):

Your Community Foundation (YCF) and other organizations may provide funding to non-profits. The Society should apply for funding to

support the infrastructure improvements listed above after first obtaining cost estimates. Richard offered to take the lead in this effort. We should expect to provide partial matching funds on the order of 10% – 20%. To this end, Rich H. offered a generous match for member donations toward the Society's monetary commitment.

LAYOUTS:

O Gauge :(Rich H.)

Rich H. expressed gratitude to members attending work sessions. Woodland Scenics B1395 gray mix ballast will be applied soon. Meanwhile, work continues on Sculptamold, paint and other aspects of scenery construction.

HO Scale:

The HO layout Task Force met earlier today and will hold a more formal meeting on Monday, February 19th. Keith D. installed additional DCC plugs and researched the cost to convert throttles to WiFi. A 2-1/2 inch Masonite upper level fascia will be tested during the next Tuesday work session.

N Scale Layout:

Max M. reported that the committee is pleased with how the N layout control panel turned out. They will test the old Digitrax DCC system before deciding whether to use that or purchase a new system. Previously approved spending should accommodate the prospective purchase.

For the Good of the Order:

Keith D. related the need to buy additional throttle pockets for the HO layout. A 10-pack is appropriate for our needs.

Richard T. strongly recommends attendance at the September 11th—14th National Narrow Gauge Convention at the DoubleTree by

Hilton in Green Tree, near Pittsburgh. (<https://www.44nngc.com/>)

Keith D. provided a reminder that the NMRA Division 2 monthly meeting will be hosted by the MVRRHS on March 17th. Members are encouraged to visit local layouts open before and after the meeting.

Meeting adjourned by President Richard T. at 7:41pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Eric J. Hopkins,
Secretary MVRRHS*

***Board of Directors Meeting
January 23, 2024***

Meeting called to order by President Richard T. at 4:01pm with all 6 officers and 1 member attending.

Handouts provided: (1) Financial Report for 2023; (2) Proposed Budget for 2024

Projected budget expenditures are kept at the same levels as last year. The budget will be presented for membership consideration and approval at the February business meeting. It will not be distributed electronically.

Climate Control: Richard T. suggested that the Society seek outside funding assistance for the purpose of funding and installing a heating and cooling system, with emphasis on heating needs in colder weather. The Society can expect to provide a percentage of the total cost in matching funds to demonstrate our commitment and resolve. A proposal is planned for a future business meeting.

Facebook demographics (Rich H.): Expanded to international following.

Telephone numbers in the Newsletter: Remove for future issues to reduce spam calls.

Spring Open House set for April 20th, 21st, avoiding NMRA Div. 2 Jamboree on the 13th.

Richard T. suggested a pro rata estimation of shop space rent based on what we now pay for the main space. The goal is to have the shop space included in our contract to avoid losing it if the space is rented to another tenant. Any materials or equipment stored beyond the shop area will be moved, recycled or discarded prior to approaching the Mall management, if the membership approves of the plan.

Lighting: A gradual improvement approach involving LED ceiling tile panels was discussed.

Roof leaks: Recent leaks over Seneca we investigated and at least partially remedied. Further inspection, inside and out, are planned.

Meeting adjourned at 4:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Eric Hopkins, MVRRHHS
Secretary**



ARTICLES WANTED

Space is available for members to write an article for the newsletter. It may be about your model railroad, a new model you just built or acquired, a railfan trip you recently took or about any railroad related topic. Just type it up and send it to:
Rich Henderson, Editor at:

trainman430@comcast.net
Please allow two (2) weeks before the next newsletter is published.

Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society OFFICERS

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Our Society Website:

<https://MVRRHHS.org>

Our Society

facebook page:

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