

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

February, 2023



EDITORS NOTE

Well, it's February, smack in the center of Winter. What's the best thing to do? Why, work on the Railroad of course! Your fellow members are hard at work on the HO scale & O gauge model railroads, why not join us. If you think, I'm not good at carpentry, electrical wiring or other stuff like that, well now's the time to learn.

Contact Keith for more information as to when we will be having work sessions and keep checking your email as I post work sessions as soon as I know they are scheduled.

Spring will soon be here and we need to be able to show the public our progress. Please Help!

Finally, annual membership dues are due. To those members that have already Paid, a BIG Thank You! Please get your dues to Keith as soon as possible. Your dues helps pay our monthly rent, utilities & other expenses.

Remember Model Railroading is Fun!

Rich Henderson, Editor



Minutes of the January 5, 2023 Business Meeting

President Richard Turton called the meeting order at 7 PM with 12 members and officers present. President Richard T. expressed gratitude for the support from members during his hospitalization and recovery from a traffic accident. He also acknowledged VP Ken C. for conducting the December Business Meeting in his absence.

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Minutes of the previous business meeting: Wally V. moved that the minutes be approved as published in the MVRRHHS newsletter, seconded by Rich H. Motion approved.

Treasurer's report (Keith D.):

Keith D. reported the Society's financial status and transactions for the month of December, 2022. The MVRRHHS remains on a sound financial footing.

Publicity (Rich H.):

Facebook followers remain at 1,200, a number expected to rise when the next incremental threshold is reached. Photos from the Holiday Open House received positive responses. While successful overall, the Open House event brought in lower than expected donations and sales.

Meeting Minutes continued on Page 2

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**February 2, 2023
Business Meeting**

**March 2, 2023
Business Meeting**

**NMRA Div. 2 Meeting
March 19, 2023**

**April 6, 2023
Business Meeting**

Spring Open House ??

**May 11, 2023
Business Meeting**

**June 1, 2023
Business Meeting**

**July 6, 2023
Business Meeting**



Minutes continued from Page 1

Possible reasons put forth by members include proximity to Christmas, WVU graduation, other local events and broader economic conditions.

Business Express Ad Cars (Eric H.):

Nothing to report. [Ad cars future may be discussed at the Board of Directors meeting]

Membership (Rich H.):

Dues are due! Rich circulated an updated roster with the amount due commensurate with the membership level of each member. Dues must be paid by March 31st, 2023 in order to retain an active member status.

Donations (Rich H.):

Modest donations were received during the Holiday Open House. In addition to those monetary donations, Rich H. donated his mother's lightly used vacuum cleaner, and Bill H. passed along an unused gift card he had received.

Old Business:

(Keith D.) The May 4th through 7th Mid-Central Region's Rails to Pittsburgh Convention necessitates the rescheduling of the MVRRHs Business Meeting on May 4th to May 11th. The membership concurred.

(Ken C.) Get a Hobby in the Uniontown Shopping Center extended 5% discount cards to MVRRHs members. Ken handed out some cards at the meeting and others may be requested.

New Business:

Keith D. moved that MVRRHs purchase a new NCE ProCab due to the wear on the unit recently purchased. Some controls are sticking. Second by Rich H., motion approved.

Bill H. proposed that we retain the

old Digitrax DCC system for testing purposes in the shop area. The membership concurred.

LAYOUTS: O Gauge (Rich H.):

Rich H. reported more progress on the inside main line. Additional drops were added to the inside main. Grades are also coming along, and hangers are being installed for supporting wiring beneath the layout.

HO Scale:

Keith D. reported that the HO layout ran well during the open House. The Chiefton coal marshalling yard track is now finished and the Indian Creek yard track laying will begin soon. A work session is planned for Tuesday, January 10th to continue the grade to the second level above Easton staging.

HO geographic naming committee: Keith D. requested a final copy of the map with geographic names, perhaps laminated, for reference at the Society.

Information placards: HO Task Force members should begin composing content for placards to be posted at significant locations across the layout.

N Scale Layout:

Max McDonald reported that Greg M. is handing off primary leadership of the N scale committee to him (Max). Draft plans are in email circulation. A meeting is planned within the next one to two weeks, with a completed plan to be presented to members hopefully by next business meeting.

Richard T. pointed out that the N scale layout is now the only layout with the potential of portability, should the need arise.

For the Good of the Order:

Nothing Reported.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM

*Eric J. Hopkins,
Secretary MVRRHs*



Mon Valley Railroad Historical Society

Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting

26 January 2023

President Richard Turton. called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM. Attending, in addition to the president: Vice President Kenton Colvin Treasurer Keith DeVault Membership Director Richard Henderson Secretary Eric Hopkins

Absent from the meeting: Immediate Past President Lou Lemelle.

The president observed that the organization previously overestimated income and underestimated expenses. Some budget tightening is warranted, and spending curtailments could become a limiting factor over time. The treasurer reminded the board that MVRRHs has limited reserve funds and all agreed that these will remain unused except in the event of an existential crisis.

In broad terms, the BOD expects a nearly balanced budget for the year with a modest carry over for 2024.

Layout construction allocations: The 2023 proposed construction budget will be \$3000 and distributed among the O, N and HO scale layouts, with \$500 each going to the O and N, and the balance going to the HO.

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Goals for 2023

- Completion of the HO layout, including a possible westward expansion of the upper level to a simulated mine staging area, sufficient to allow for hosting a practical operating session by January 1st, 2024.
- Completion of basic track and wiring on the O scale layout by the August Back to School Open House.
- Completion of a functional N scale layout by January 1st, 2024.

The vice president expressed a desire to tap into members' skill sets and enthusiasm in areas other than modeling and construction. Fund raising and outreach are two areas specifically mentioned and the thought could apply to broader activities. The board's subsequent discussion focused on a member survey to identify individuals who may have energy to contribute in alternative aspects of the Society.

The board briefly discussed flagging ad car sales, the possibilities of promoting them now that trains are running, and possible alternatives, e.g. sponsor name on a layout building. All agreed that further discussion among members is warranted.

In the spirit of budget mindedness, the membership director suggested a call out to members to donate scenery materials, which will require careful outreach to insure that the Society receives items truly needed and we avoid getting bogged down with materials we'd only have to store or discard. Perhaps a "just-in-time" approach is

needed here.

The BOD meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM with the intent to present its findings at the February business meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,
Eric Hopkins, MVRRHs 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 a 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.

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