

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

**MON VALLEY RAILROAD
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.**

May, 2024



EDITORS NOTE

The Spring Model Railroad Open House was a success! We had a lot of visitors on Saturday morning and all day Sunday. More info at the business meeting.

We need help! It seems like the same members are showing up to the work sessions. While their loyalty is admirable there are others who could help out, at least now that then. Work sessions continue on Sunday afternoons for O gauge, Monday evenings for the N scale and on Tuesday afternoon for the HO scale layout. Remember, every member/s are welcome to come and help during these work sessions. These are your new model railroads, so come and help! Get your hands dirty and enjoy the fun with your fellow members.

Elections are over, your officers/BOD members remain the same for the coming two years. If you wonder if this is a good thing, well it does bring stability to our organization, and that means we can continue to progress on the layouts and it's a clear track ahead.

Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

Rich Henderson, Editor



Minutes of the April 4, 2024 Business Meeting

President Richard T. called the meeting to order at 7:01pm with 5 officers and 7 members in attendance.

Minutes of the previous meeting:
Wally V. moved that the minutes be approved as published in the April newsletter, with Rich H. providing a second. The motion was approved without discussion.

Treasurer's report: (Keith D.)
With modest improvement during March, the Society remains in good financial condition.

Publicity: (Rich H.)
The Society now has 1,362 followers on Facebook, including 10 new for the month. Layouts under construction photos and a Spring Open House announcement post generated likes, comments and shares. Rich already sent out Open House public service announcements to regional broadcast stations, and letters are ready to send out to local schools and newspapers on April 8th.

Fundraising :(Richard T.)
Richard T. is working to determine the Society's grant eligibility following a call for proposals from a regional philanthropic organization.

Meeting Minutes continued on Page 2

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**May 2, 2024
Business Meeting**

**June 6, 2024
Business Meeting**

**July 4, 2024
Business Meeting**

**August 1, 2024
Business Meeting**

**August 23 & 24, 2024
Back to School
Open House
Workers Needed!**

**September 5, 2024
Business Meeting**

**October 3, 2024
Business Meeting**



Minutes continued from Page 1

An annual award of up to \$5,000 or possibly more will provide a great boost to our efforts to have a heating system installed. Wally V. suggested that the Society strive to showcase the craftsmanship involved in designing, building and scenicing model railroads. Richard T. reminded members of previous education activities such as the earning of activity badges for scouts and OLLI classes. Keith D. mentioned the railroad history talks the Society provides to retirement homes. All of these activities support the educational mission of the Society and may enhance our chances of receiving a grant award. Ken C. talked about a comparatively straightforward application process for non-profit grants of up to \$1,000 from a box store with a local presence. Such a grant might pay for upgraded LED lighting.

Membership: (Rich H.)

Keith D. moved to accept two new members: Frederick Alexander and Roman Chuby, with a second from Wally V. The membership approved the new members unanimously. Welcome aboard Fred & Roman! Two 2023-24 members did not pay their 2024-25 dues before the deadline. The total paid memberships now stand at forty.

Donations:(Keith D.)

Donations by anonymous letter and the Society caboose were reported by Keith and Rich, respectively. Ken C. provided information for a previous donation, which came from Carry Howell of Clearwater, FL. Finally, Rich mentioned that as many of Dr. Comer's recently donated trains as can be fit are currently displayed on the sale table.

Old Business:

Richard T. provided a recap of the Division 2 meeting hosted by the

Society on March 17th. Thanks to MVRRHHS volunteers and to Wally V. for his presentation on paper structures. Wally reminded officers of his pledge to post PDFs for the structures on the Society's website for free download. Division 2 attendance was 44 of 46 members. The Society received a host stipend and a respectable level of equipment sales.

New Business:

The nominating committee (Wally V., Bob T. and Jon H.) reported no new candidates for Society officers and all current officers willing to continue to serve. With no contested offices, Wally moved that the Society elect the current officers by acclamation, seconded by Steve K. Members in attendance voted unanimously to approve the motion. President Richard T., Vice President Ken C., Treasurer Keith D., Membership Director Rich H. and Secretary Eric H. will serve as the Society's Board of Directors for 2024-25. Gary D. remains the Immediate Past President and also serves on the Board.

Proposed visit by up to 20 three-year-old Early Head Start students (Rich H.): Vicki Connor of the Service League of Morgantown contacted the Society via Rich to explore the possibility of having up to 20 three-year-old EHS students visit us as part of a field trip. EHS will provide a chaperone for each student. Proposed dates are Wednesday, May 22nd or Wednesday, May 29th, 10 – 11:30 am or 1 pm. Overall response from the members present was positive with caveats, including:

Pre-event visit by Vicki to determine suitability off space for EHS students.

Vote to approve / deny at next business meeting and call for volunteers.

Close off HO layout area to reduce exposure to under-layout

structures.

Additional recommendations include access to Brio train set, and suggesting diving group into stations and rotating after a given time to maintain interest.

LAYOUTS:

O Gauge :(Rich H.)

Rich H. reported that the yard is electrically isolated and ready for final roadbed and track installation. Some inner main line wiring remains to be done. Meanwhile, the application of final scenery materials continues with satisfying results.

HO Scale:(Keith D.)

Keith D. reported that the upper level fascia is nearly done. Background clouds, hills and trees details, and foreground vegetation are well underway. The cardboard scenery armature for the peninsula is mostly done on the east side with final landscape decisions still pending for the west side.

N Scale Layout:(MaxMcD.)

Max M. listed accomplishments, including backdrop painting, ready now for hills and trees; hill area roadbed installed ready for track, and mainline ready for operation during the upcoming Open House. Keith D. installed additional throttle holders on the fascia.

For the Good of the Order:

Mall administrators visited to measure shop space as part of a plan to formally add it to the main Society spaces in our agreement. They also checked the ceilings and are aware of ongoing storm-water leakage issues.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm Rich H., second by Ryan, met with unanimous approval.

Respectfully submitted,

*Eric J. Hopkins,
Secretary MVRRHHS*

***Mon Valley Railroad
Historical Society
OFFICERS***

President

Richard Turton

Vice President

Kenton Colvin

Secretary

Eric Hopkins

Treasurer

Keith DeVault

Membership

Rich Henderson

Immediate Past President

Gary Deavers

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<https://MVRRHHS.org>

Our Society

facebook page:

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