

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

MON VALLEY RAILROAD HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Inc.

August, 2024



EDITORS NOTE

It's August and our back to School Open House is scheduled for Saturday, the 24th and Sunday the 25th, 2024. We need workers for this event. Please set aside some time to help.

Also, we will be hosting a visit of about 20 people from Wesley UMC on Friday, August 9th at 6:30pm. Any help will be appreciated.

We have received some new donations of HO & Lionel trains. These items have been sorted, for the most part and are out on the tables for sale. Please take the time to look over these new items and see if there is anything that you may want. Remember, members get first dibb's on donated items!

Improvements to our facility will be happening soon. New ceiling fans will go up to help circulate the air and new heating is just around the corner.

Work sessions continue on all our layouts. Members are welcome to come and help during these work sessions. These are your new model railroads, so come and help!

Remember, Model Railroading is Fun!

Rich Henderson, Editor



Minutes of the July 11, 2024 Business Meeting

Call to order: President Richard T. called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm with eight members and six officers present. (Total: 14)

Minutes of the previous meeting:
Dave E. moved that the members approve the minutes of the June 8th meeting as published in the July newsletter, with a second from Ken C. The motion was unanimously approved without discussion.

Treasurer's report: (Keith D.)
The Society remains financially stable and continues to meet its obligations.

Publicity: (Rich H.)
Our Facebook followers are down by a few, while Society posts continue to generate likes and comments. Individuals got in touch via the MVRRHS.org website, including a potential donor and someone seeking information on local railroad facilities. Flyers are printed and available for the Back To School Open House coming up on August 24th through 25th. PSA's and school letters are ready to go out.

Fundraising :(Richard T.)
No news as yet on the Your Community Foundation grant.

Meeting Minutes continued on Page 2

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

**August 1, 2024
Business Meeting**

**August 24 & 25, 2024
Back to School
Open House
Workers Needed!**

**September 5, 2024
Business Meeting**

**October 3, 2024
Business Meeting**

**National Model Railroad
Month Open House
November 2 & 3, 2024
Workers Needed!**

**November 7, 2024
Business Meeting**

**December 5, 2024
Business Meeting**



Minutes continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, local Walmart's have no funds to offer currently, but Keith D. was encourage to submit a request after the first of the year (2025).

Membership: (Rich H.)

No new members to announce, and Rich sent out a new roster on June 20th.

Donations:

Rich H. reported income from sales at the recent Marx Convention in Wheeling and Dave E. submitted proceeds from the Concourse O gauge layout.

Facilities (Jon H.):

Fire extinguishers are due in soon, along with repairs to emergency exit lighting. The wooden trains were sorted with items separated for potential disposal.

Old Business:

Jon H.: Geotraxx larger layout proposed for outside Society entrance during Open House events. Approval of Mall administration will be sought.

Rich H.: Wesley U.M. Church group visit set for Friday, August 9th, 6:30pm (crew arrival: 6pm).

New Business: including several matters discussed by the Board of Directors on June 24th:

New MVRRHs logo – see meeting handout and email. After some discussion of the several options, Keith D. moved (seconded by Wally V.) that the Society adopt the “regular” new logo. Richard T. amended the motion to apply to the design only. A second motion to select colors was tabled for future discussion. Jon H. will bring color specifications matching the new website theme to the next meeting.

Richard T. presented recommended

changes to the Society **Community Outreach Policy** (see handout). Following substantial discussion the matter was tabled for future consideration. Several members suggested changes and input is welcome from others.

Estimating annual visits to the Society:

Richard T. presented a proposal discussed by the officers to use a handheld “clicker” to count guests as they arrive during open house events. A member would remain for a half hour or so near the entrance and click a counter for each new arriving visitor. At the end of a “shift,” another member will take over, and so on. The margin of error could be significant, but this method will, nonetheless, provide a baseline estimate of the number of attendees. Visitors will continue to be encouraged to sign the guest register. The proposal was approved by the members present.

Motion detector:

As a means of alerting crew that guests are entering the Society space, Richard T. presented a proposal for a beam cut type of motion detector near the entrance connected to chime or other sound-emitting devices near the back of the space. This could be especially important when only one or two members are present and the entrance is unattended. A single detector and two signal devices are needed. This proposal was approved.

Ceiling fans:

In a continuing effort to improve the climate and comfort within the Society space, ceiling fans were suggested as a means to help circulate air. Keith D. moved that the Society purchase and install three ceiling fans, as discussed, with a second to the motion from Rich H. The motion was approved unanimously.

LAYOUTS:

O Gauge :(Rich H.)

More painting was done and yard track work is in progress.

HO Scale:

Richard T., Scenery continues to expand on the upper level, while the Valley Crossing bridge / viaduct construction is well underway. Mike H. submitted a list for additional supplies needed to finish the bridge.

N Scale Layout:(Max McD.)

Track is now laid up to the staging area and the N team is diving into the Digitrax DCC system.

For the Good of the Order:

Material and Equipment Storage:

The President urged the membership to sort the various things stored in the back of the Society space and discard unneeded / unusable items. Some things may be offered for sale or give-away. Shelving may be installed in appropriate locations to consolidate items deemed worthy of retention. The unused bathroom might be outfitted for more efficient use in storage. Mall-owned equipment currently in Society space could be moved elsewhere with permission. Old layout boards and other equipment should be evaluated and considered for removal.

Multiple voices answered the President's call for a motion to adjourn. The meeting ended at 8:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Eric J. Hopkins,
Secretary MVRRHs*



**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

Our Society Website:
<https://MVRRH.org>

**Our Society
facebook page:**
[https://www.facebook.com/
MVRRH](https://www.facebook.com/MVRRH)

*A few photos of layout
construction:*

