



**Seacoast Division NMRA
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 18th, 2021
10:00 am - 11:30 am**

Commencing: 10:00 am

Participants: T. Erickson, N. LeMay, J. Lutz, D. Kotsonis, J. Ehlen, B. Campbell
M. Pedersen, G. Mitchell, T. Oxnard, D. Delorey, G. Anthony

Opening Remarks: Tague announced that the major emphasis on this meeting's agenda was a revision to our by-laws

Reports: Secretary:
No report. A motion was made to accept today's agenda by Jay Ehlen seconded by Mike Pedersen. The motion passed.

Treasurer:
Dave Kotsonis reported a balance in the Treasury of \$ 5,755.46.
Soon we will have access to PayPal services
A copy of the most recent treasurer's report is attached.

Switch Tower: Geoff Anthony needs articles to publish

Membership: No Report

Webmaster: Dave Delorey reported that he has been appointed to the NER

Web-Committee. His webmaster report is attached.

A.P. Program: Tom reported no activity

Convention Committee: No Report

Clinic Co-ordinator: Jack Lutz reported no new submissions

Nominations Committee: Reported no new nominations

Activities Committee: Glenn Mitchell is seeking clinicians and layout tours for the up-coming winter event on Jan. 15th, 2022, in Westbrook, Maine

NER. BOD Report:

Chuck Dilljack will receive the Seacoast Div. BOD minutes. The Recording Secretary will insure that event

Events:

Mike Pedersen suggested that announcements for the Silent Auction be sent out by the 1st week of December for the Winter Event.

Geoff suggested there be an “open-submission” for that auction.

Norm’s “O” Scale R.R. may be a nice layout tour for the Winter Event, Mike will follow up on that.

Tage made a request for more volunteers as “Event coordinators

Tage offered for the boards consideration that someone step forward to run for President.

Old Business: The ‘Donations Bucket’ at the most recent quarterly meeting proved to be a worthy endeavor.

Our Spring Event is scheduled for April 23rd 2022 in Newington, NH. Lenn is coordinating this

Chip Faulter Fund: See the attached treasurers report for the fund details. A \$

A. \$100.00 donation was made to a members grandson.
Tom Oxnard suggested the creation of a brochure detailing the goals of the
Chip Faulter Fund.
Current balance is \$ 10,662.79

New Business:

A review of the proposed revision to Article XII of the by-laws was discussed
at length.

A motion was made to enact the change by Jay Ehlen.

2nd by Dave Kotsonis

A notification of the changes has been e-Mailed to the members with no e-Mail
address on file the Recording Secretary will notify them by U.S.P.S

The election will be held On-Line.

The Recording Secretary will tabulate the results.

Tage will announce the results.

A copy of revised Article XII is attached.

Next B.O.D. meetings is scheduled for:
January 6th, 2022

All meetings to start at 10:00 am

Meeting adjourned 11:45am

NER Seacoast Division NMRA - Webmaster's Report – November 18, 2021

The short term problem plaguing the Seacoast Division's web site is that it lacks the access credentials to log on to the current Joomla! based web site and access to the seacoastnmra.org mail server. As a result, updating the Joomla! Platform, as is regularly required, is impossible. And assigning, changing and deleting email addresses is also impossible.

The long term problem is the division may lose its seacoastnmra.org domain name because it is controlled by third party person who is no longer associated with or accountable to the division.

The NER Communications Team is actively working hard on preventing the foregoing outcome and re-evaluating its current practice of paying for the hosting and registering the domain names of nine web sites in the region.

Regarding the Seacoast Division's role in this effort, I have undertaken a work-around project which first included backing up the seacoastnmra.org web site to seacoastnmra.com anticipating a potential loss of its domain name [seacoastnmra.org]. In addition to that, I am looking at changing the paradigm and moving off of Joomla!. My evaluation of the current Seacoast Division's web site is:

- (1) Content Management System [CMS] web sites are designed to manage multiple input actors, the content is subject to very frequent updates, it hosts dynamic or interactive content and it needs to keep track of content changes and discrete actor's activities;
- (2) CMS web sites are complex, rely on a SQL database to function, require a fair amount of training to make them run properly and can cost hundreds of dollars per year in service fees and licensing;
- (3) The Seacoast Division's web site is constructively a static on-line library of documents with a single webmaster and minimal updates on a monthly basis;
- (4) Thus, the selection of CMS in the case of the Seacoast Division appears to be inappropriate and burdensome.

Accordingly, I have undertaken the task of migrating the seacoastnmra.org web site from Joomla! to a simple PHP/HTML web site, without using the Joomla! required MySQL database manager and all of its complexities. The criteria for success of the new platform is:

- (1) the new web site must deliver about the same level of service;
- (2) the new web site must be easy to maintain by its webmaster;
- (3) the webmaster is assumed to be an individual with minimal web site support experience.

With the foregoing points considered, I have a new test web site up and working. It is about 75% completed. This is commentary to this effort:

- (1) The current site has over 26,000 documents, images, scripts and directories which hampers finding some documents that are managed by the Joomla! application;
- (2) There is ample evidence that consistency has been compromised unknowingly by many webmasters that have stored similar documents in a variety of places and have used differing naming conventions to describe like topical documents;
- (3) Many existing links point to non-existent documents which links need to be deleted;
- (4) The new web site will have a standard naming convention for stored documents and is expected to have fewer than 500 documents, images, scripts and directories, thus, intuitively the entire web site will be, by design, much easier to maintain.

Updates to follow as the project progresses.

Dave Delorey, Webmaster, Seacoast Division NMRA

Article XII. Revised

SEACOAST DIVISION NMRA Revising Election Process

RESOLUTION: Pursuant to Article XIII Amendments of the Division's bylaws, the Board of Directors hereby approves the following specific language of a proposed amendment to the bylaws that will modernize the annual director election process enabling many more members of the division to vote each year regardless of travel distances and health concerns by revising Article XII's paragraphs 4, 5, and 6. This proposed amendment shall be posted for 45 days on the Division's website and all members will be alerted either by email or postal mail prior to a final vote by the Board.

Article XII

4. There shall be a Nominating Committee of three members elected by the Board of Directors no later than the end of the month of July each year. Said committee shall prepare
 - a. A slate of no fewer candidates than the total number of Directorships that are expected to be open at the next Annual Meeting of the Members, and
 - b. A slate of candidates for the offices of President and Vice-President (one or more for each office).

These slates, which are to be presented to the Board of Directors at one of its meetings held no later than the last day of September each year, will be posted on the Division's website and published in the division's newsletter, The Switch Tower or successor publication, at least forty five (45) days prior to the deadline for submission of ballots. In preparation for each year's annual election, the Nominating Committee will solicit candidates, explaining the requirements of the positions. In addition, any Member may nominate someone else via a written notice to the Nominating Committee with the permission of the nominee. All such nominations must be submitted to the Nominating Committee at least ten days before the last meeting of the Board of Directors prior to October 1 of each year. If the number of candidates is no more than the number of known open positions, no election process is necessary, and the Nominating Committee's slate of candidates shall be declared elected to the Board at end of the next Annual Meeting by the President.

5. If an election process is necessary, the Secretary, if not a candidate for election or re-election to the Board, or alternatively a designee of the Secretary who is not themselves a candidate, shall arrange for and supervise a secure online voting system to conduct the election of directors and report the results to the Members at the next Annual Meeting. The deadline for receipt of ballots shall be at least two (2) days before the Annual Meeting. Provisions must be made to enable Members who cannot vote online to vote by other means such as paper ballots. Also, the process must provide for confidentiality of every Member's votes.

6. Directors newly elected will take office upon the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

Treasurers Report

Seacoast Division of the NMRA

Financial Statement for November 18, 2021

Date	Check #	Description	Withdrawals	Deposits	Balance
10/24/2021		Beginning Balance			\$5,504.46
10/31/2021		Left over cash from Derry Fun Night		\$130.00	\$5,634.46
10/31/2021		Sale of Rolling Stock Tage		\$27.00	\$5,661.46
10/31/2021		Donations received from October SDNMRA meeting		\$94.00	\$5,755.46
				ENDING BALANCE	\$5,755.46
				TOTAL	\$5,755.46

Respectfully Submitted

David B Kotsonis

SDNMRA Treasurer

11/18/2021

CHIP FAULTER FUND

BALANCE

\$10,662.79