



Seacoast Division NMRA
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2024

Participants (via Zoom): Geoff Anthony, Bruce Campbell, Dave Delorey, Tage Erickson, Will Everitt, Jim Gore, Jack Lutz, Guy Mason, Peter McKenney, Glenn Mitchell, Tom Oxnard, and Jim Seroskie

The meeting started at 1:02 p.m.

Treasurer's Report, Jim Seroskie

Jim shared his screen and oriented us to his December 31, 2023 Financial Report. Beginning Balance at start of the year: \$16,293; balance in checking account as of 12/31: \$12,792.20; available funds as of 12/31: \$12,592.20. He reported on putting \$10,000 in a 5% Edward Jones money market account, which would earn us \$500 over the course of the year. Our checking account will be connected to the Edward Jones money market account. Transfers will happen within a day if needed. Next month we will see similar financial report (with a blank slate with new year), but with notation where our funds are between the checking account and the money market account.

Action item: Tom Oxnard motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report and Jim Gore seconded the motion. Unanimous acceptance.

Secretary nomination and Secretary report:

Action Item: Glenn Mitchell nominated Will Everitt as Secretary. Geoff Anthony moved the nomination and Jim Gore seconded. Unanimous vote on Will being Secretary. Tom Oxnard submitted minutes of the last meeting.

Action Item: Geoff made a motion to accept the minutes and Jim Gore second. There was no discussion and the minutes are accepted unanimously.

Switch Tower Report, Geoff Anthony

Switch Tower was put to bed early this quarter because Geoff had surgery on the 18th and knew that he would be in no shape to work on it after. He sends his apologies to those who had articles that did not make it in. They will be in the next issue. He shared his appreciation for those who submitted articles. He encouraged photos and articles for next issues, including simple photos of what you are working on right now.

Membership Report, Bruce Campbell

Bruce reported that NER is still working out roster distribution and access. Glenn requested that Bruce Campbell, Jim Seroskie and he receive the roster from NER/Erich Whitney. Bruce will flow roster down to other officers/chairmen that need it. We have not received anything yet. A long email was sent to Bruce about issues regarding reporting and data and the roster was not distributed. Glenn said he received November's roster, which contained all the divisions in one report. Glenn wants multiple people to receive the list so that if something happens, it is easier to access. The reporting seems to be in flux right now.

Webmaster Report, Dave Delorey

Dave sent a Webmaster report via email on 12/27/23.

Chip Faulter Fund Report, Tage Erickson

Tage said that we could see in the financial report that we sent a donation to the Southern Maine Railroad Club, which was received.

AP Program Report, Tom Oxnard

We will have an award to give out this Saturday! Tage shared that more of members should receive the Association Volunteer Certificate for their service. He reminded everyone that you can earn points for the volunteer work with the convention, so keep track of your hours! Some of us might be close to receiving the Association Volunteer Certificate, so it might be worth checking. Tom said that if we have a date when someone started we can follow through with that, but by and large people need to keep track of their hours.

Nomination Committee Report, Bruce Campbell

We have our slate for annual meeting.

NER Board Meeting Report:

There has been no NER BOD meeting since our last meeting. Next NER Board meeting is January 14, 2024 at 7 p.m., with a focus on the convention.

Convention Committee Report: Tage Erikson

Tage sent out a report to membership on December 29th which sums up where we are at. Glenn will present our proposal to the NER Board on January 14. We are assuming that it will be approved. The biggest departure from other conventions is eliminating Thursday afternoon clinics, which will lower the costs of attendance. Tage does not foresee this being a problem. Tage reported that Glenn, Peter, and Will had a meeting with Dave Insley to smooth out our report. We will have a Convention meeting on Monday, January 8 at 10 a.m. Tom shared that we are trying to figure out the scheduling of the clinics. Glenn shared that Chris Carfaro of the Green Mountain Division said that he would help get volunteers for the convention. Glenn suggested that we may want to share some of our income with that Division if they help. Tage said we will look at that down the road based on how much participation we get. Tage will report out about the Convention at the Saturday, January 6 meeting.

New Business, Glenn Mitchell

Glenn reported that we need to develop calendar of events and meeting for 2024. We want to hold four (quarterly) events. He said we are looking at going to Rochester, NH, or Center Harbor, NH for our spring event. There were remarks that Center Harbor is far away. We may consider the Center Harbor location for the Fall or the Spring of next year. Eastern New Hampshire and Southern Maine are the sweet spot for driving. We want to avoid conflicts with Southern Maine Model Railroad Club shows.

We want to hold 8 Board of Director meetings. Does Thursday at 1 p.m. work moving forward? There was a consensus that it worked for everyone. Glenn will pick dates Thursdays before the events and four in between.

Glenn shared thoughts on Division goals for the year and asked for attendees' reactions:

1. Continue planning the 2025 Convention
2. Encourage more member participation: one way is show and tell presentations and another is encouraging people to make a presentation about their layouts.
3. Setting up some weekend visits to peoples' layouts that we do not typically see.

Geoff encouraged us thinking about why people resigned and why people may have been alienated. Some noted that it is a national problem. Bruce reported an 8% reduction in membership over the past

year. He said that it seems that people are aging out and that some feel the membership amount is too much for some relative to what people perceive they are getting out of it.

Tom suggested holding more social events and providing lunches at our division meetings. Glenn suggested providing pizzas at layout tours. Jack shared that maybe we should focus on Southern New Hampshire because more people show up; that instead of regular events, we could do something else in Northern Maine. Tague said he would love to have an event at his home, and if people didn't want to hear speakers, they could go swimming or other outdoor events. His garage is air conditioned. His layout is upstairs. Tague said that folks on the Outside Committee are putting together the list of layout tours and operating sessions for the conventions. The layouts don't need to be owned by NMRA members. Glenn agreed that the list of layouts are a good starting point for social events. Glenn brought up featured layout in Model Railroad Hobbyist, that is in Southern New Hampshire. We need to keep finding the gems like that!

Lastly, Glenn asked for help at the 2024 Spring Train Show hosted by Great Falls Model Railroad Club on April 27 in Topsham, Maine. Can anyone work the table? The event is in the gym at Mount Ararat High School, which is a beautiful spot for a show. Will said he could help run a table for a small amount of time, but not the whole time because he will be operating a layout there with MaineTrak. Guy Mason said he may be able to do the show. Tague would need to get Guy the materials and displays. Depending on if Guy can do the event, they will work out meeting up. Glenn will also contact Paul Lessard about working this show.

Action item: Geoff moved for adjournment and Jim second. The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

Faithfully submitted by
Will Everitt, Secretary