

NAUSET MODEL RAILROAD CLUB

Date: January 6, 2012

Place: Train Room at Hilltop Plaza

Call to Order: 7:30 p.m.

By: Roy E. Jones, III, President

of people present: 36

Secretary's Report: The minutes for December were accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: The report for December was accepted as read.

GOOD OF THE CLUB:

Anita Peterson gave the following speech:

For many years, the club has held monthly club meetings which were very enjoyable to attend and members could freely contribute ideas and opinions. Over the past year, many club members have commented that it has become increasingly disturbing that the monthly club meetings have been used by a select few people to be very confrontational and accusatory with no regard for other member's ideas or opinions. This reoccurring confrontational attitude at the meetings has caused many members to be uncomfortable about attending and participating, and has resulted in some new members never returning after their first unpleasant club business meeting. It has been noted that e-mails have also been used to create unnecessary confrontation and controversy. This has got to stop for the good of the future club morale. Club members deserve to be treated with dignity and respect at all times.

CLUB MEMBER INFORMATION:

1. Bob Feitlowitz is in the hospital after emergency surgery.
2. George Bournazian is back at the club after medical issues.
3. Andy Reynolds is feeling better after a long recuperation from a bicycle accident.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Finance Committee** - Frank Piotrkowski reported that the Finance Committee will meet with an investment advisor from Wells Fargo on January 21, 2012. (See that attached report on the History of Club Funds).

2. History of NMRC Club Funds – The following e-mail of the History of NMRC Club Funds was referenced at the meeting:

There are many new club members who do not know how the Nauset Model Railroad Club earned the funds we now have in our club accounts and it is important that this information be shared.

Originally, the club was significantly smaller (approximately 10-15 members) and club members traveled around to each other's homes for the monthly business meetings, and later met in the Orleans Methodist Church. Through the years, club members moved layouts from place to place at the Christmas holidays to set up displays, but lacked space and funding since at that time membership dues were \$1.00 for life.

Our current club President, Roy Jones was able to coordinate a deal with Safety Insurance where, as a "Supporting" club member, many people could contribute \$5.00 annually to our club and receive a significant discount on their automobile insurance. It was a lot of time-consuming, hard work by a team made up of Roy Jones, Warren Peterson and Karen Sharpless every month creating and coordinating an extremely large Access computer database (approximately 15,000 people), typing up 1,200± monthly bills, stuffing and sealing envelopes, mailing them, and then keeping track of (and reporting to the insurance company) the number of "Supporting" membership dues that were returned to us by mail for approximately 4 years. Some of our visitors today still mention that they were once members of our club through the insurance discount program.

Not everyone responded to the billings, but enough people appreciated getting the automobile discount enough to be willing to contribute the \$5.00 club membership dues annually to be a "Supporting" member of our train club. This resulted in the \$20,000 we had in our account when we moved into the current Train Room in January 2005, anticipating that we would only be able to stay at the Train Room for 4 years, and then we would run out of funds.

Because of the initial amount of money we received from the "Supporting" insurance discount club members, donations we have received from Train Room visitors over the past 7 years, and judicious planning by our Treasurers and Finance Committee, we have been fortunate enough to be able to remain at the Train Room for the foreseeable future.

3. Activities Committee – Jay Stradal reported on the following upcoming activities:

- Clinic on the basics of wiring and soldering.
- Big E Train show
- Home layout visits to the homes of Alan Berg, John Pryke, William Bock.
- Operating session at the Harwich Historical Society layout.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Open House Attendance Summary:** Club members were informed about the following attendance figures for the past three years:

<u>Season / Year</u>	<u># of Visitors</u>	<u>Annual Total</u>
Summer 2009	887	
Christmas 2009	688	1,575
Summer 2010	783	
Christmas 2010	266	1,049
Summer 2011	1,091	
Christmas 2011	1,409	2,500
3 year Total	5,124	

2. **Springfield Bus** – Club members were reminded of the bus trip to the Amherst Railway Society Train Show at the Big E on Saturday, January 28, 2012. The bus will have four stops: Orleans, Barnstable, Buzzards Bay and Taunton.
3. **2012 Club Memberships** - Membership cards are available for club members who are up to date on their membership dues.
4. **Membership Statistics** – A report was made on the following membership statistics:

2011 Membership:

Regular Members	60
Supporting Members	<u>18</u>
Total Members	78

2012 Membership to Date

Regular Members	47
Supporting Members	<u>3</u>
Total members renewed	50

NOTE: There have been no new membership applications for 2012.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Baseball Shop Fixtures** – Stan Snow asked for help on January 7, 2012 moving a donation of large show cases and fixtures from the Baseball Shop to the Train Room and annex for use by the club.

2. **Annex inner door** – Club members discussed access concerns in the train club annex.

MOTION: A motion was made by **Bill Secor** and seconded by **Frank Piotrkowski** that the door between the two sections of the annex be permanently closed and locked.

After much discussion with Tom Spollen as renter of the second section of the annex, club members requested that Tom research the reason that employees of the pizza restaurant in the Hilltop Plaza still have access to a key due to furniture and equipment stored in the annex and Spollen has been requested to report back to the club at the February business meeting.

AMENDED MOTION: A motion was made **Alan Berg** and seconded that the club lay the discussion on the table until Tom Spollen makes a report at the February 2012 club meeting.

VOTE: The motion passed a majority.

3. **Cape Cod Model Railroad Club Train Show** – Club members were informed that the train show will be held on May 20, 2012 at the Barnstable High School field house.

MOTION: A motion was made by **Alan Berg** and seconded that the club purchase four sale tables at the Cape Cod Model Railroad Club train show in the amount of \$20.00 each for a total of \$80.00.

VOTE: The motion passed by a majority.

4. **Coffee Fund** - Club members were reminded of the importance of contributing to the coffee and dessert funds, as part of that money is used to purchase food for the annual fall club cookout.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

1. **Woodland Scenics** - Roy Jones reported on a massive fire at the Woodland Scenics manufacturing site and store in Linn Creek, Missouri on Thursday, January 5, 2012.

The meeting adjourned at **9:00** p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Karen C. Sharpless, Secretary