

**BOD MEETING MINUTES OF GARDEN STATE DIVISION, NE REGION,
NMRA**

Purpose: Garden State Division (GSD) Staff Meeting
Date/Time: Sunday, June 11, 2017
Place: Home of Bruce De Young
Attendees: Bruce De Young, Tom Casey, Bob Dennis, Tom Wortmann, Jim Homoki, Jim Walsh, Chuck Diljak, Fred Dellaiacono, Jim Fawcett and Paul Harbord

Not in attendance: Ciro Compagno, Mark Moritz and Andy Brusgard

Meeting started at 9:00 AM

June 11, 2017 Motion Submitted and Approved:

(2017.6.11.1) GSD will present a plaque to Anthony in appreciation of his years of service as Treasurer, Secretary and Director.

Reports were presented:

President's Report – We must change the way we plan events. We need to have long range planning to help increase attendance. We began planning several meetings ahead but recently slipped back to planning one at a time. In 2018 we will only need to plan 2 division meets – winter and summer. We must plan them much earlier than we have been doing. We will discuss more in detail when we get to the events report.

Vice President's Report– Jim F announced that the Garden State RPM will be held on November 4 and 5 in the same location in Scotch Plains. He also spoke about the Model Railroad Open House program in November organized by Jerry Britton. Jim is the POC for the program in the GSD and he described the limited support that he received from local layout owners. Bruce noted that the small amount of support should grow over the years.

Secretary's Report - Jim Walsh distributed the draft minutes for the last BOD meeting. One comment by Jim H. clarified that for the Whistle Post report it was tough getting the layout information together. Minutes accepted with the comment and correction noted. Jim also distributed the minutes for the Annual Business meeting for review by the BOD. The minutes were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report – Bob reported that he did a 6 month review, year on year, and there was little to no change. We keep accumulating other funds but usually we break even on our events. Our finances are healthy with a good amount of cash available. Treasurer's report was accepted. Bruce informed the group that he authorized Jim W to order a plaque to thank Anthony for his years of service to the BOD. Bruce requested that the BOD have a motion for the purchase of the plaque.

MOTION: GSD will present a plaque to Anthony in appreciation of his years of service as Treasurer, Secretary and Director. The BOD approved the motion.

Education Committee and AP Reports – Bruce has received Chuck's structure certificate to hand out at the Summer meet. He also expects to have Anthony's Golden Spike as well. There are other members putting together the paperwork for Dispatcher and Author.

Event Report - **SUMMER MEET** - Saturday, July 1 at the VFW in Westerleigh on Staten Island. A suggested MTA tour will not be possible this time but Ciro may be able to arrange a tour of the former Gypsum plant. This tour will not be certain in time for the Whistle Post release and if it happens it will be a last minute addition for the Summer meet. Tom W also discussed some rail locations on Staten Island and Bruce asked about the Lighthouse museum. That museum is located by the SI Ferry

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terminal and it will be open for the afternoon. There are issues with the local layouts but they are working to solve the problems and expect to have 3 layouts available.

Tom W will give a clinic on making scale trash for a model railroad and Chuck will present one on coal mines and structures.

FALL MEET PLANS. Bruce is trying to arrange for the Littell Center in Franklin, NJ and has a backup plan to use the Franklin Mineral Museum. He will know the disposition of the Littell facility by next Friday. Bruce wants to secure a location in Franklin, NJ. Our interest in this area is based on layouts that are available in the area.

WINTER EVENT PLANS – Paul suggested his Masonic Lodge and we discussed the layouts available in Bergen County as well as prototype railroad facilities in the area. Bruce and Bob will create a letter for our members in Bergen County asking about layouts and interest in opening them for a layout tour. This will also have value for the 2018 convention since it is in the same area. Jim H asked that they consult him when they compile the list of members to contact since he may have insight about some of the members. Paul will check availability of the Masonic Lodge for the March 3 or 10.

2018 MEETS - Bruce advised the group that our planning must get out ahead of the meets as a means to have advanced advertising and subsequently increase our attendance. For 2018 we will only be planning 2 meets – the Winter meet and the Summer meet. The joint meet will be hosted by the NJD and due to the regional convention we will not have a fall division meet. We need to find places with layouts that have not been open before. Hunterdon county was suggested and includes Flemington and it could be a good location. However, we need to determine any layouts that may be in the area. Jim F offered that we may also need to consider different afternoon activities instead of layout tours. There are some prototype railroad locations in that area. Bruce will scout Flemington/Hunterdon area looking for a possible location for a summer meet

Membership & Club Chair's Report - Tom C reported that we have a total of 226 members comprised of 218 full members and 8 members with Rail Passes.

Whistle Post Report. – Jim H. reported that the next Whistle Post should normally be done by a week from now but it needs the information about the Summer meet – layouts, clinics and outdoor activities for the afternoon. He needs layout photos and descriptions. The clinicians must send him the descriptions of the clinics. All the information must be sent next week so that the Whistle Post can be finished by next Friday.

"Erie Limited" 2018 Convention Report - Our slogan is "Come ride the Erie Limited"

- Bruce noted that in order to increase attendance we will need early advertising and promotion for the convention.
- Jim H says that he is getting slow responses for layouts for tours but we have enough for operating sessions – 6 home layouts, and 2 clubs for operations Tom W asked about the possibility of any layout operating twice. Jim H will inquire but there is a lot of the staging required for a most layouts. Bruce suggested that it would be more likely that a layout owner would open twice for layout tours. Also some of the operating layouts will be open for tours too. Jim H has 12 layouts for the tours and some more that he needs to follow up with. We should aim for 20 or more layouts.
- Tom W requested that if you are mailing out a report, send it only to him. When they are sent to the whole group it only adds to the volume of email traffic unnecessarily. If a report is sent to the group, please send comments to Tom W only.
- Also, when you send an email to the group, be sure that it goes to Paul and not Anthony.
- Tom C was having issues with his work email and Tom W suggested that he set up his personal gmail account to receive GSD email messages. Tom C must also get on Dropbox.
- We had a discussion about Dropbox:
 - Limit use of Dropbox to active files needed for the BOD and Erie Limited convention.
 - Do not delete files that you did not add

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- Files should be edited online and not edited offline and uploaded back to Dropbox.
- We must not use Dropbox for parking some of our archived files - use it for current and meaningful files
- Tom W reminded everybody to send him convention reports.
- In working on the clubs, Tom C should coordinate with Jim H.
- Bruce said that the convention chair, Dave Insley, would like us to have a web site operating in October. Also at the convention Dave expects us to have a booth to promote the 2018 convention and we need to have basic registration forms to allow people to register early. Chuck and Tom W. should speak to Dave Insley before September about the design of the registration form.
- The NER approved one day registration and spouses attending for free.
- Popular at these conventions is an opening event with food and if we have it, we will pay for the food and service.
- Peter Higgins volunteered to do the silent auction or Chinese auction.
- For prototype tours, 3 or 4 are suggested by Dave and others from the NER. Any more will begin to compete with the rest of the activities of the convention. We have the Zinc Mine and the Railway Historical Society facility in Boonton. Also the Whippany Museum which can include a train ride. If the Black River and Western is running steam trains in Ringoes that would be a good railroad activity as well as the wine train from Phillipsburg We could provide a schedule and other information for the activities but we would not need to organize them and include them on our registration.
- In consideration of the scheduling of events, Tom W suggested that Bruce ask some of the clinicians if they could schedule a second session of their clinics.
- Bruce will be contacting the manufacturers and vendors for their participation in our convention and displays in the hotel.
- We discussed options for the convention bag and need to consider the number of attendees.
- Bruce suggested that 200 attendees would be a good turnout.
- Our area also contains many good prototype railroad structures.
- Fred reported that the last clinic on Saturday will end at 5PM so that there is plenty of time to prepare for dinner.
- Bruce reported on his inquiry about modeling with the masters and some issues he encountered at the NER. The GSD BOD is still interested in having the national program of Modeling with the Masters at our convention. Bruce will meet with Clark during the National convention.
- We had a discussion of banquet speaker and Bruce will make some inquiries about a potential speaker.
- Tom C related that since our convention will be located near the old Erie main line and that had 6 foot gauge. Therefore, he plans to make a clinic about railroad gauges in America for presentation at the convention. It would address the variety of gauges that once existed and it should be an interesting topic.

Old Business –

- Bob reported that Ciro will update his items at the next meeting.
- We could only locate 3 of the lawn signs
- Ciro has old files on drop box and Tom W will contact Ciro before he takes them down.
- Chuck will check with Ron about our Facebook page and report on activity.

New Business –

- Bruce brought up our support of the 4H modeling club and asked if we want to support it again next year. We will need a plan for an ongoing project that can be worked on at each session until it is complete. A small scratchbuilt building would be a suitable project. We need to develop a plan for it. For now Bruce will tell Jan that we will support it for another year. We will need a project plan

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and a good showing of volunteers. However, for this year Jan needs 2 judges for the diorama projects at their fair in August. Paul and Bob D. volunteered.

- Tom W asked about contacting Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens NMRA members to announce our events in addition to Manhattan that we already contact. For that purpose, Chuck asked Tom C to send him the NER membership list.

The next BOD meeting will be on Sunday, September 17, 2017 and hosted by Mark.

Meeting adjourned around 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Walsh

Jim Walsh, Secretary NMRA/NER/GSD