



## GATSMELINES Model Railroad Club Minutes of the General Business Meeting Held March 1, 2007

This meeting was held in the club's meeting room, with 17 in attendance. 1 more arrived during the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:34 PM by Jerry Anderson, President.

### REPORTS

The complete minutes of the previous meeting were not available; these will be available before the next meeting.

**Treasurer's Report** – Rich Barlow reported that we had \$517.77 in the checking account and \$7667.13 in the savings account. He also said that we had 2 car sales during the month. He also had put together a preliminary budget, which at \$8500 for the year, was about \$150 less than last year's. This had been reviewed by the committee members, and was read by Rich, after which it was approved by a unanimous vote.

**Vice President's Report** – Tim Wells reported that we had two probationary members; Rod will be up for a vote in April, and Francine will be up for a vote in May.

The House committee will continue assigning routine cleaning duties to the next three members in alphabetical order each month. Jerry also had a list of projects:

- Complete ceiling at entrance to locker area
- Finish fascia board where the old mainline cabs used to be.
- Clean up under the layout.
- Clean up in the tool room /electrical store room & install doors.
- Clean up main store room.
- Skirt under Transfer area.
- Refinish the wall between the entrance door and the rest room.

**Publicity** – Charlie Liggett said that there wasn't much to report until we get closer to the Invitational Operations Session. If anyone knows names and addresses of local papers, let Charlie know, so that we can contact them when we have announcements of shows, etc.

**Annual Banquet** – Tim said that we seemed to have become comfortable having this around August, and that he would be working on planning this in the Spring and Summer.

**Long-Range Planning** – Tim said that one of the most important considerations about our location will be finding out what the township supervisors are planning for this building. Jerry said keep looking for potential locations.

**General Superintendent** – Doug Baer said that the homasote was being installed in the loops, and that the panel was being designed. He also said that work on the Grover Quarry area was going to continue where it left off earlier. There are numerous small projects that each committee needs done, so if anyone finds themselves with nothing to do, let him know. Val mentioned that some sections of track need repair. Doug said that if you see something that needs repair, you should leave a note, so we know about it, and Jerry added that these should be signed, so we know who to ask if we need more detail.

**Operations** – Chris O'Brien said that inspections of cars will continue. It is the responsibility of the owners to maintain their own cars; the inspectors are not here to repair cars or clean wheels. Jerry asked him what happens if a car is removed from the layout due to a broken coupler, or some similar problem. Chris said that the car and the car card should go on the inspection bench, with a bad-order card identifying the problem. The car owner should make the repairs, and ask for a re-inspection. After it's inspected, it can go back on the layout. Jerry said that he was a little disappointed with the way the session ended; there seemed to be fewer people at the end left to finish out the schedule. Chris said that although some members were rusty after a few months, the session went pretty smoothly. Watch the speed of your train and make sure you stop at the division points and call for permission to proceed.

## OLD BUSINESS

Radios – Val said that he had sold off all the old radios, and that the club made \$265.00. One more was handed to him, and he said that he did have buyers for a few more.

Car Sales – Val said that he had sold four club cars, and Jerry gave him a letter from a gentleman in Winchester VA who was interested in club cars. Accuail has 48-car sets if we want to make up a smaller batch of cars than we usually get; the discount is not as great on the small batches.

Snow Clean Up – Jerry said that the township maintenance crew had plowed the path, but that he had shoveled out the steps.

DSL Connection – Jerry asked Val what it would cost, and Val said that it would be \$17.95 per month, for a 1-year deal. This could be used for downloading JMRI and updates to the software, and for doing research. Val made the motion, seconded by Jay. After discussion, the vote had only 5 in favor, so the motion was defeated.

Gift Cards – Jerry said that gift cards had been sent to Rob Raggi and Dave Palmer who had children recently.

Narrow Gauge – Bob Rule said that there was a packet of information on the bulletin board, including printouts of all the emails that had been sent among the members. He has locomotives and cars, and was looking for additional equipment. Major changes to the line will wait for at least two years.

## NEW BUSINESS

Jerry announced that the next month's meeting will be on Thursday, April 12.

You can belong to more than one committee, and while we are here we should keep improving the layout we have. If you have ideas about our future or any potential locations, put them in writing and give them to Jerry.

Jenkintown Hobbies – Charlie Liggett said that, despite what some people have heard, the shop is not closing.

Precision Craft – Francine reported that Precision Craft was now taking 8 weeks for repairs.

Show Thoughts – Bill Plank suggested adding a fourth show in February or March of 2008, using the cars already on the layout for operations, and making sure that the cars go back exactly where they came from. This could bring more people, more exposure, and more money for the club. This could be something for discussion next month.

Cedar Haven Control Panel – Bill Plank also mentioned that control of the mainline switches at Cedar Haven would use a different system than most of us are used to, and it uses a different voltage rating. Be careful if you do any work on the switches in this area. There will also be an option to control certain switches using the DCC throttles. There is a new control panel in Cedar Haven, with both the narrow gauge and standard gauge on it. There will also be a replacement for the panel out in the aisle, which will be a duplicate of the one in the access pit.

## ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Doug Baer, seconded by Chris O'Brien, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM, a duration of 56 minutes.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Frederick Monsimer,  
Club Secretary