



## GATSME Model Railroad Club Minutes of the General Business Meeting Held April 12, 2007

This meeting was held in the club's meeting room, with 16 in attendance. 2 more arrived during the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by Jerry Anderson, President.

### REPORTS

The minutes of the March meeting were read by Frederick Monsimer, Club Secretary, and approved as read on a motion made by Bruce Sergeant, seconded by Chris O'Brien.

The complete minutes of the February meeting (which were not available in March) were read by Fred and approved on a motion made by Jay Pastelak, seconded Chris O'Brien.

Vice President's Report – Tim Wells reported that he had nothing new on publicity. Charlie Liggett said that he was waiting to hear back from the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Tim also said that the correct dates for the votes on our probationary members are May for Rod and June for Francine. Planning for the picnic was continuing; he was looking at August or early September, and Rod had offered to host it at his place. Bob said that somehow, Schuylkill Valley had gotten publicity on Channel 29, and had a mob of people at their shows. If we can manage to get that type of publicity, we are better set up to deal with the crowds than they are. The Long-Range Plan Committee had found that the Township was considering several options, and was not planning to even bring this property up for a discussion until the fall, at the earliest. The Township doesn't publish a newsletter, but does print an annual calendar; Fred suggested getting our show dates in the calendar if we can.

Treasurer's Report – Rich Barlow reported that we had \$673.18 in the checking account and \$6073.13 in the savings account. He also said car sales year-to-date amounted to \$616.00. In March, we had sold 16 cars; 6 hoppers, 4 reefers, and 6 S&NY cars. We had 5 CDs, and will roll over the next one when it comes up. He said that the large recent expenses were insurance at just over \$500 (it went down by \$30) and electricity (mainly for heat in the Winter) of over \$1000.

General Superintendent – Doug Baer said that homosote had been installed in the loops and some track work was being done there. The framework for the new control panel was also installed there. Scenery work was in progress on the waterfall on leg 4. New switch machines had been installed in Transfer, and the electrical work in that area was just about completed. Bob Rule said that Val had found a few drop feeders on the narrow gauge that were not connected, and that this was planned to be corrected soon. Val mentioned that the top portion of the "Topside Creeper" had been welded to make it more solid, so it would not droop onto the track when being used.

Narrow Gauge – Bob Rule said that any major changes on the narrow gauge line would not be done for at least 2 years. He said that anyone interested in the narrow gauge should talk to Bill Plank and find out what needs to be done.

Operations – Chris O'Brien reported that some people were disappointed that we had run the second trick, which is the shortest one, and had only gotten through half of it, but at the last operations session, we had finished the second trick and gotten all the way through the third. We will not have an operations session in April, but running trains on the layout is a good way to keep the layout in shape for operations, and keep the operators familiar with the layout. Just make sure that you put the cars back where they belong when you are done. We will do some re-staging to get the layout reset for the Invitational Operating Session. Bob asked if we could invite the members from Schuylkill Valley for the Invitational Ops Session, so they can see what DCC is all about.

### OLD BUSINESS

Jerry said that junk is accumulating on the tables again, and asked the members to try to keep the club looking decent.

Sound system – The old "train sound" system that had been under the layout for years was no longer needed, and on a motion made by Ed Wilson, seconded by Jay Pastelak, we voted to give this to Allegheny Western Lines.

Phone Donation – Bill Plank had brought in a phone, and said that he had the jack for it. He would like to install this on the inspection bench, so club members don't need to running back into the storage room when the phone rings, in order to get the call.

### NEW BUSINESS

Show Dates – The dates for the shows were discussed, and we selected:

December 8 & 9, 2007

January 5 & 6, 2008

January 19 & 20, 2008

March 8 & 9, 2008

Operating Sessions – Jerry said he would like to see more operating sessions, but wouldn't want to cut out any of our work nights. There was some discussion of this, and we decided to do this each month on the Monday following a Thursday ops session. The first one will be the Monday after Memorial Day.

Planning Committee – Jerry said that he would like to have a Planning Committee meeting on Tuesday, May 1 at 7:30 PM.

George Weissgerber – Charlie Woodward said that George had been diagnosed with cancer, and that he was going to begin undergoing treatment soon. Our best wishes to George for a complete and speedy recovery.

NMRA – Jerry mentioned that the Philadelphia Chapter of the NMRA would not have their regular show this month, but would host a series of home layout tours. Maps and schedules were available on the Chapter's web site.

Keystone N-Trak – Ed Wilson mentioned that Keystone N-Trak was looking for a new home, but we were told that we couldn't offer them any space right now, as much as we might want to.

Microwave – Chris O'Brien had a microwave available, which he offered to bring in and donate to the club, for the club members to use. There was a brief discussion; some of the objections raised were that it would take up space, might not get cleaned, could encourage food waste to be left in the club room and would use too much electricity. There were only 5 votes in favor, not enough to accept the offer.

Cleanup Crew – The names of three cleaners for April were drawn: Fred Monsimer, Chris O'Brien, Ken Parsons.

### ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Doug Baer, seconded by Chris O'Brien, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM, a duration of 73 minutes.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Frederick Monsimer,  
Club Secretary