

## **HO Department Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2007 – by Dick Kunig, scribe for this meeting**

*Amended: “and tunnels”, added to East End Electrification discussion.*

*Approved as amended at July 28, 2007 meeting.*

**Call to Order** at 4:10 PM on the west balcony by Martin Harriss – prior minutes and current agenda were distributed.

**Attending:** <<<Martin has the sign in sheet>>> – (Roger Oliver arrived at 4:20 PM)

**Valid Proxies:** John Morris (held by Ira Deutsch); Pete Ezzard (held by Bob Nalbone)

**Report of Quorum:** 15 signed in plus 2 proxies = 17, sufficient for business.

### **Agenda:**

Additions under New Business –

- (1) Dick Kunig > “Announcements” –
- (2&3) Bob Nalbone > “Saturday Revisions” & “Clean up” –  
Motion to accept Bill Jambor, second by Carlos Langezaal, approved without objection.

*Changes post approval*

- (1) *Martin Harriss dropped “Old Business – Gilberton Engine Terminal” without objection when it came up on the agenda schedule)*
- (2) *Bob Nalbone covered the “New Business - Clean Up” topic in the agenda both during the “Announcements” topic and within the “Saturday Revisions” topic*
- (3) *Martin allowed “Anything else?” at the close of new business*

**Review of the 01/17/07 Minutes:** Motion to accept as printed by Don Kern, second by Don Riss, approved without objection.

**Reports of Committee Heads:** (all given verbally)

**Electrical** – Martin Harriss –

- (1) The work required to move switch machine for the Gilberton sub-roadbed cuts; per Paul Preuss, the cuts are done, the wiring changes can be completed;
- (2) Bill Franklin said he is continuing routine maintenance;
- (3) Bob Nalbone reported problems with the gauntlet control causing power drops from Portal to Morris when set to the RR – discussion suggested cause might be closed gaps from recent heating anomalies, dropped feeders and/or feedback in a cab control circuit – not DCC related – needs more diagnosis (*no one specifically assigned*);
- (4) Bill Franklin reported a “standards” change from for power wiring from 16 gauge wire to 14 gauge wire, its better for DCC short detection.

**Scenery** – John Morris not present –

- (1) Per Martin, Ira has been working on the Mauch Chunk bridge;
- (2) Bill Franklin reported new member Pat Romano is cleaning up and organizing supplies;
- (3) Dick Kunig reported that he assisted Pat in the repair of the recent Jim Thorpe “tunnel roof collapse”;
- (4) Ira Deutsch asked about the “other” bridge in Mauch Chunk, Bill Franklin reported no success trying to contact Matt about the “custom built vertical lift bridge” in his possession.

**Master Mechanic** – Ed Van Savage –

- (1) No specific problems – No major backups in inspection/repair boxes – he will continue to notify members if equipment stays in the boxes too long;
- (2) Bill Franklin asked what we do about club owned and/or abandoned equipment, per the discussion, the “club owned” axle code is White/Green/White;
- (3) Martin directed Membership and Master Mechanic to meet and “address” any abandoned equipment.

**Superintendents** -

- (1) **HD&O**/Bob Nalbone reported the “usual” issues, not enough operators, nobody cleaning up at sessions – plus - the connections to the temp yard are not acceptable and are out of service;
- (2) **TN**/Neil Petillo not present, per Bill Jambor a new schedule will be used May 8, minor gauge problem exists in Bernardsville track – train crews are “working around it”;
- (3) **RR**/Todd Heller (and Jeff Peal) – everything running okay.

**Operations** – Mike Briante not present –

- (1) Martin reported that the car inventory appears not to have been completed;

- (2) Bob Nalbhone reported that phones are to be re-checked;
- (3) Dick Kunig reported he's preparing a DL&W steam-diesel retirement/acquisition report as assigned by the chairman;
- (4) Bob Nalbhone said we need to correct the phone/radio use during operations, perhaps to the Paul Mallery recommendations, paperwork continues to be neglected, plus, he will be re-publishing engine assignments;
- (5) Bob Nalbhone reported the Invitational (06/02) mailing is done;
- (6) Ed Small is to work with Pete Ezzard on waybill process, date due TBD.

**Layout Planning** – Rich Cornell -

- (1) Track work in Gilberton is being extended east to a point where engines will be able to access the turntable;
- (2) The turntable location is now permanent
- (3) We need to check with Ira to make sure we have or can get the appropriate buildings for the engine terminal (Ed Small said he had some – they need to be brought in; Bob Nalbhone said we need to check the “donation” inventory too).

**Layout Construction** – Paul Preuss –

- (1) Hump yard bowl cookie cutting is done; A/R, turntable and engine service are set – don't walk on it until it is supported;
- (2) Mike Bowler continues to make progress on the Pitt to hidden yard approach;
- (3) Paul and Joe Russell have been working on the hidden yard “modules”.

**Old Business - East End Electrification:**

- (1) Martin opened discussion stating no consensus has been reached;
- (2) Dick Kunig said that we need to decide now so we can plan and build for the future;
- (3) Dick Kunig asked would prototype (*demonstration*) modules be funded by the department – Martin agreed;
- (4) Kern, Kunig and Cornell lead discussion points on Hoboken – e.g. ½ Hoboken vs. 3 yard compression;
- (5) Electric vs. non-electric impact on design (e.g. engine turning and run around) were also discussed;
- (6) Ed Small noted that when the public sees Hoboken they expect to see wires;
- (7) Paul Preuss said constructing, operating under and maintaining wire is not possible – look at the TN's problems with a single wire.
- (8) Martin said he would hold a joint operations/planning meeting to address the issue.
- (9) Ed Small said make sure all M&E towns *and tunnels* under construction are planned and built capable of having overhead installed.

**New Business:**

**Announcements** – Dick Kunig

- (1) Dick reminded all that the membership has been invited to the Live Steamers next Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> – he and Don Kern have been trying to facilitate participation (Jeff Peal, Paul Preuss, Todd Heller and Ron Heller may also be contacted) – arrival around noon would be appropriate – call Dick if you any questions;
- (2) Roger Oliver reminded all that the NE Region would be here tomorrow afternoon (April 22, 2007) – Bob Nalbhone reminded everyone that we need to clean the club up for the visit.
- (3) Dick closed with the reminder of the GATSME invitation in May.

**Saturday Revisions** – Bob Nalbhone's “report”

- (1) Visitors are lingering in N layout area because its easy to see and a lot is done, but also because often there is “nothing going on” on the HO layout – causing problems for the members working in the N layout area – there have been many instances when no one was “supervising” the HO layout and trains were not running – plus the “same old trains” every week provides “nothing new” when a visitor returns – this situation does not result in “continuing return visits”.
- (2) We reduced dues and need to increase visitors so we can financially comply with 501c3 requirements.
- (3) The BOD has been advised of a proposal to change Saturday visiting hours to a mini-show, (think Disney):
  - (a) 4 trains will be running at all times
  - (b) at a scheduled time, a “steam excursion” will be “announced” and visitors directed to the balcony to watch it being assembled and then run “in traffic” from Pittsburgh to Gilberton;
  - (c) then the visitors will then be directed to exhibits around the gallery
  - (d) later, after the train is turned, they will be directed back to the layout to watch the return trip
- (4) A minimum of 5 members must commit to get this done.
- (5) All members should arrive early to do “chores” before we open.
- (6) All members should assist with “visitor tours”.
- (7) Members who operate their equipment Saturdays will be allowed to do so if it can be done as part of the “presentation”.  
(*Bob discussed “Clean up” earlier in the meeting and did not reopen it here.*)

**Anything else?** - Bill Franklin requested that the HD&O purchase a copy of the TN track cleaner car and Martin verbally approved the acquisition.

**Adjournment** – 5:10 PM, motioned by Ed Small, second by Carlos Langezaal, without objections.