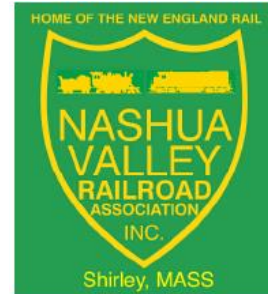




Layout Committee Meeting, April 8, 2023



Saturday, April 8, 2023 at 2:15 PM

Present: Nick Carbone, Jim Fenner, Stuart Brorson, Doug Boudrow, Claude French, Joe Albano, Don Carlton, Larry Roberts, Corey Connors-Reynolds and Craig Peterson.

Anything in green is a decision.

Committee reports:

Layout Planning Committee – Larry Roberts - *some decisions made*

- Larry went over the layout planning report that he had distributed on April 2 to all club members. The report was a result of the work of Joe, Craig, Matt P and Larry R.
 - Joe and Craig had input into Matt, then Matt and Larry worked back-and-forth largely over the phone as Matt was putting together CAD files showing the three different levels of the proposed layout on the opposite walls.
- Larry emphasized that these are starting points - that they are basically a distillation of ideas of these four people and that **we need to get more input from all of the club members.**
 - The only thing that is fixed is the outline, as a requirement for 3-foot aisle dictates how wide a layout structure we can have.
- Jim wanted to point out that the hinge for the upper level raising bridge **needs to be a few inches closer** or so to Mechanicville in order that there not be too great a bump-out in the layout profile. **We agreed.**
- Regarding the storage track Jim suggested **two cross overs** on the two front tracks so that shorter trains could be accommodated. **We agreed.**
- Larry explained that he wants to see a smooth curved corner a rounded corner rather than the angled ones on the current plans so that potentially more space could be gained for industries.
- Larry pointed out that there are two options for the upper deck with different locations of the turnouts for the line to the cement plant.
 - After a grade analysis we will be required to pick between them, but the goal is to have the turnout connection on the short wall just before the curve, if we can do that there will be more space for an industry.
- A decision was made that Larry will insert these ideas as edits into the document he sent out on April 2 and send a revised document out with further request for input from members so that next month some decisions can start to be made.
 - (This has been done with the document sent being sent together with this report.)

Scenery and structures committee Claude French –*decisions made regarding Mechanicville structures; decisions were made at the following meeting at Ayer regarding building size*

- Claude outlined that we have first to determine what size of structures we can have in the Harvard Groton Rd., Central Avenue area.
- Larry R has distributed actual building measurements but he needs to see what will fit.
- Discussion on the downtown Ayer section:
 - Don Carlton brought up the challenges of modeling downtown Ayer in the very narrow space that we have, specifically indicating the Page block - a second empire structure with a Mansard roof is very distinctive and should be included as is the steeple of the Federated church.



- Discussion was held about actually taking photographs of the buildings from the opposite sidewalk and realigning them with the Google software with which Stuart has experience, and actually use photographs against the backdrop to represent the north side of Main Street.
- Larry R made the point that even the structures on the south side of Main Street would only to be able to be an inch to 2 inches deep with the very slightest gap between those and the northside structures.
- Discussion then turned to the Ayer-Groton Rd area:
 - Don Carlton indicated he would like to build one of the structures and would prefer it to be the old Apple storage on Central Avenue.
 - We agreed to make cutouts of the building footprints in the Harvard Groton Road area to see which will fit and downsize as needed. (Which we did after the meeting, and by progressively cutting footprints down, **decided on maximum size**).
- Fitchburg area – Nick Carbone
 - Nick indicated he has completed two small maintenance buildings based on repurposed NER freight cars for the layover track area.
- Adams paper mill area – Nick Carbone
 - Nick indicated work is progressing. The building is completed, lighting circuits are in, and ready to be connected to the 12 V bus.

- He also has indicated that he has taken the US Paper products building that used to be on the Bolton layout and is repurposing it for the wood digester structure.
- He's added dock lights, and is happy to be able to repurpose something from the old layout.
- Mechanicville - Joe Albano
 - Joe indicated the bridge over Anthony Kill (brook) is done and some of the sidewalk is done and marked.
 - He's talked to Larry M about doing the route 67 bridge.
 - Patrick has worked on three buildings on Viall Avenue - they're all roughed in.
 - He's asked **us to do the station and the other building. We agreed**
 - There will be a little bit more scenery to do in front of Viall Avenue, and then Joe has to start at the Hudson River Bridge and work all the way to Mechanicville doing the second level of detailing of the scenery.

Other Committees – no significant discussion of track, electrical, DCC or standards