

Electrical items:

- Jim - the command station has been moved and Bruce has moved the raspberry pi which runs JMRI.
- There is now a large monitor connected to JMRI because the small monitor which was in the helix got damaged by water because it was left out.
- We need a 24-inch monitor that accepts HDMI if somebody has one to donate, because the big one is just too awkward.
- Anything in the helix needs to be back under the layout so it's protected because we have an issue with the roof there this time of year. This is especially true of the three boosters which are now in the helix - if they are out being worked on you must make sure they're back under protection before you leave. Joe made the point that maybe we need a sign indicating this inside the helix.
- This is also true at the table in the break area. There is a leak that drips down there - don't leave anything on the table you don't want ruined. The Phoenix Park guys try to help and put buckets where they see drips so don't move the buckets and don't use the buckets for trash.
- Command bus - all the jacks are now working and all have been coated black some with black vinyl sign tape. Also all now have the green LED which helps you see them on the black background. If you find a bad one let Jim know. A couple of the jacks have green tape on them – that's an indication to Jim that something has to be done - please don't remove the tape yourself.
- There is still some work to be done on the power distribution to the jacks so that there's only four or five on each power source, but everything should be running OK now. If you find a problem be sure to let Jim know.
- As far as new locations are concerned there will be one by Willows, there will be one at the front of the layout by the grain mill and there will be one inside the pond in the grain mill area in case you have to go inside to do switching. They will also be a few every 8 to 10 feet from Fitchburg yard through Ayer to Willows. Any upper deck jacks will be moved to the lower deck.
- Wireless – we now have the base station and two repeaters, so we ought to not have the minor dead spots that we used to.

Scenery:

- Since we will be having a major push to complete scenery this year, if you have previously agreed to be the responsible for a particular area and you have not been working on it, please contact Jim and let him know either that you will be working on it or that you can no longer work on it.
 - If he notes an area with no activity it may get assigned to somebody else if you don't have a discussion with him.
 - Some specific areas mentioned were the railfan bridge at East Deerfield, the farm at Roberts Mountain, the Apple storage, and the bridge on the road to the house at the

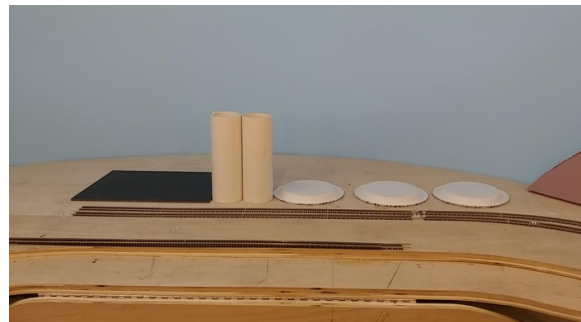
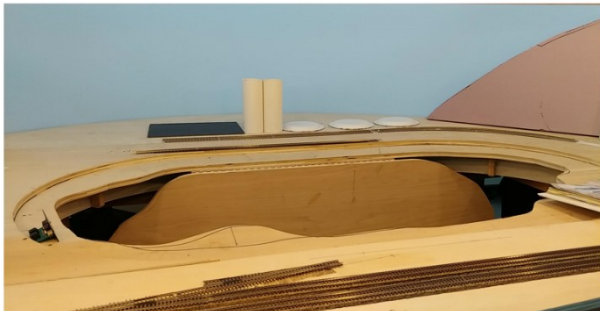
IMAX curve. Jim said he would be taking care of Gardner inner but the question remains of the outer part of Gardner next to the tunnel.

- With respect to priorities Jim indicated he feels a priority that the first thing that people see coming into the room be scenicked - this means the grain mill area, Mechanicville to the bridge and Willows to Ayer should be priority.
- The only significant track work left to do is inside the loop by the grain mill. The track needs to be mocked up and Matt approve before it gets put down.
- For purposes of discussion and assignment of responsibility Jim outlined the division of the areas.
 - On the upper deck there are two areas:
 - From the Hudson River bridge west to the corner by Mechanicville
 - From that point west through Mechanicville until it disappears by the wall.
 - On the lower deck it the areas are:
 - The grain mill area of - the entire space inside the window box to the corner including the Martin Brower building.
 - The second area is from that point by Willows Road west to Sandy Pond Road.
 - The third area is from Sandy Pond Road to Harvard-Groton Road.
 - Right now we are not discussing the area from Harvard-Groton Road through the center of Ayer and the wye west to Fitchburg yard.
 - Remember current work will only be on the section behind the track.
- Larry mentioned that the three-ring binder that is sitting on the layout has bird's eye photos of much of the area between the mill and the center of Ayer for guidance of people who want to work in this area.
- Assignment of areas:
 - Eric asked to do the grain mill area and this was agreed on. This is the first place he will do his clouds as mentioned last month, so we all can see the effect.
 - Joe asked to do Mechanicville and this was agreed on.
 - Larry mentioned that he has the kit for the XO tower which is well beyond his skills to build. Joe indicated he would build it, so Larry will get it to him.
 - After the meeting Joe contacted Doug Adams who had said he would do from Mechanicville to the bridge. Doug indicated he doesn't have the time right now so Joe is going to be responsible all the way from the Hudson River bridge through Mechanicville.
 - There were no takers for the Willows to Sandy Pond Road and Sandy Pond Road to Harvard-Groton Road at this time.
- Other scenery issues:
 - Larry suggested that the chair appoint some members of a committee to start investigating the issue of how we make trees so that they are efficient to make, relatively inexpensive, and durable. This will be discussed in greater detail at the next meeting.

Track:

- We had a brief discussion of the track cleaning and maintenance issues.

- All agreed that the Wahl oil seems to be working well now and will continue to use that approach.
 - Joe mentioned that a fellow approached him at the Springfield show with a commercial product and Joe tried it to great effect on his layout at the show, and it reduced a lot of the issues. It was noted that it does contain enough hydrocarbon that you would have concern about softening plastic ties if you were not careful.
 - For now we'll go with the Wahl oil.
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- After the meeting considerable progress was made:
 - Joe attacked Mechanicville removing some of the temporary scenery.
 - Eric roughed out the trackage and began the mocking up process for the grain mill, which will be a very interesting challenge in selective compression. See the photos. The plates are the “foundations” of the three big silos.



Present: Jim Fenner, Lee Davy, Scott Lukas, Matt Paquette, Craig Peterson, Nick Carbone, Paul Stansel, Joe Albano, Eric LaLonde, Larry Roberts.