

Layout Committee Notes, Sunday July 10, 2022

Present: Jim Fenner, Craig Petersen, Matt Paquette, Joe Albano, George Nielsen, Larry Roberts, Eric LaLonde

Electrical:

- Portland and Worcester staging camera timer purpose and operation - Jim Fenner responsible:
 - Jim has installed a camera system with a timer, which is set to shut off after three hours. It is now powered off the DCC circuit so it shuts down when DCC is shut off. We will be powering it separately, at which point the three hour shut off will become important
 - Jim plans to add another camera in Mohawk yard - there is none in middle of it, but Jim will be putting one in. Have splitter on 32 inch monitor so can display three images no problem.
 - Two start stop buttons. Start button resets timer back to 3 hours.
- Also need some stuff in dispatcher area - lights circuits need some switching over.
- Detector systems and car implementation:
 - Resistor wheelsets and discussion
 - Eric reported a special paint that works.
 - Matt - Kevin recommends MGChem Total ground.
 - Spray on card stock, use brush to connect from wheels to resistor.
 - Matt has 5000 appropriate resistors on order.
 - Now time to start experimentation to find best most efficient method.
 - Scott - what are punch points?
 - Entire main line is detected. Have now removed much that George and Bruce installed at Mechanicville and Ferry St. which will have to be replaced.
 - Jim do we try to do all the cars?
 - For a simple way to organize implementation, Nick suggested pick all one color - for instance do all white cars. Then all green, etc. Pretty soon most trains will have enough cars with equipment, and you don't have a whole bunch of paperwork trying to figure out what's been done.
 - For unit trains every 5 cars or so should be ok.
 - Process going forward
 - First test process on several wheelset types.
 - Then pick one group of cars and see how it goes
- Matt got stuff from guy in Canada to detect WE through AY.
- George has his system ready to talk about
 - George's breadboard first iteration under Mechanicville has been removed and will stay out as configuration has changed
 - We need to do this as radio is the bottleneck
 - George old system was master slave system. With new WiFi system no master slave system so the node that calculates aspect can be any Slave. Could have a PC doing it all. Two operating modes. Dispatch all go red until dispatch clears
- All switch 1s have been replaced by mark 2's.
- All switch 8's also replaced
 - Mark 1s failed - reaching end of life. Figure
- Electric locks on tracks need to be all the same.

- Matt likes West Fitchburg.
- Jim will make all consistent.
- River St. only new one - This would make all the same.
- Matt Will email instructions to Jim
- Will need more for Camp track.
- Crossover between mains, ???
- Green LED next to switch in Portland, then Worcester. This just to let operator know switch is lined.

Scenery – Areas in Progress:

Mechanicville and Noonan's - Joe Albano responsible:

- Operational through on track 2 only
- Switch at Ferry St is disabled
- We will need to get this operational by next Saturday and have Noonan functional.
- Diamond Mechanicville has issues with wheels dropping in due to the long space caused by the shallow angle. Joe is fixing today.

New England Milling - Eric LaLonde responsible:

- Coming along well. No decisions need to be made now.

Gardner – Jim Fenner responsible:

- Gardner inner:
 - Jim assigned himself to manage this.
 - Nick and Jim pulled all buildings off and they are in AY
 - Have not yet figured out track exact locations
- Gardner Rte2 highway bridge:
 - Some people talked to Jim, but no people have stepped forward (But Joe Albano did after the meeting).

Industry track on outer wall – Jim Fenner and Larry Roberts responsible:

- Jim will make spline next weekend on his brother's large panel saw
- 1", 2" and say 3+ for bridge sides
- Exact layout of bridge hinge needs development.

Scenery – Areas to be assigned:

Fitchburg passenger station and layover facility - to be assigned (became Corey during meeting):

- Going to get crossover into macros. Need someone to sign up to get the passenger platform in place and finish layover facility.(
- Matt has repaired the hump getting off the main line.
- Need to get the DCC in to the passenger track and the layover facility (now Corey).
- Switch 8 Is in place in
 - But one port did not work.
 - Will get swapped out and Joe will send back the defective unit.

- So right now we can't get in to track 16 Back track in Deerfield staging.
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Agenda for Sunday 7/10/22 Layout Meeting

- Mechanicville and Noonan's
- Camera timer purpose and operation
- Fitchburg Passenger station and layover facility
- Switch 8 Mk2 in Deerfield Staging
- Resistor wheelsets and questions, tasks, discussions...
- Gardner Inner
- Gardner Rt 2 highway bridge
- Mock-up of branch line support structure and discussion of plans

New England Milling:

Eric brought the mill in so we could get exact location. Note also a couple of his trees in place.



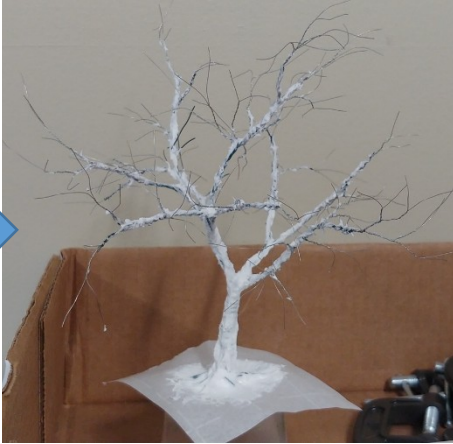
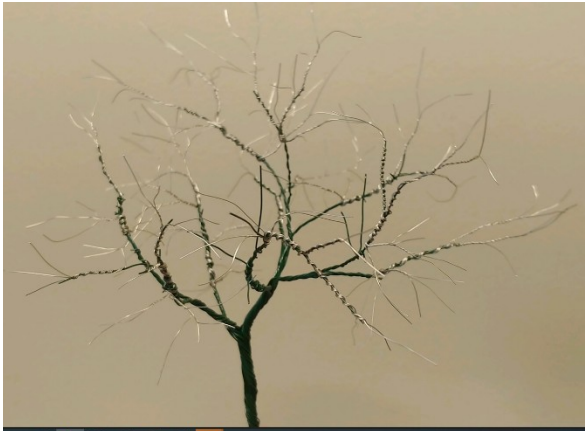
This led to ability to get the track in, with space at left for Catania Oils - It just fits!



Lighting is almost complete too:



And here are a few pictures of one of his trees in process. A detailed How-To is in the works.



finished tree:

This is the same





Mechanicville:

Joe and his team have made a lot of progress:

Starting from the East, the bridge west of Noonan's has been mocked up and heights determined. Joe will be building it at home.



The old track and foam have been torn out, joists extended and plywood installed. Note Joe's no-visible-means-of-support technique for getting enough weight to resist the screws from below. I will no longer expect any comments about my over-engineered/built benchwork!!



And the result as of last night.



Layout Skirting:

Nick has worked hard getting the layout skirting in the in the east side of the Gardner peninsular and it looks great. Magnets make it easy to separate then re-attach so it does not have to be torn off to get at stuff.



And if that wasn't enough, Joe brought in a herd of cows to control the excess foliage that somehow showed up on the barbed wire fence at Ferry street. Looks great Joe!



Other progress with no photos:

Matt installed a kill switch on the automatic sensing system for the crossover just before Portland staging. Normally this sense a train coming in on the inner (incorrect track and crosses it over to the outer. But if your train splits and you have to back down to staging, you previously were out of luck. This control is right near the crossover. If you have to use it please tun it back on.

Jim installed excellent cameras and large screens to see the entrances to staging
