

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of September 17, 2023

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Ken Howard.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance

Members attending were Wayne Aiken, Liam Bryant, Dan Egy, Jake Forbes, Tom Garren, Jimmy Hall, Ken Howard, Ted Kunstling, George Lasley, Don McPherson, Don Weaver, and Bob Witwer.

3. Open House

We have an Open House scheduled for October 7th. The HO layout needs attention. Buildings that have been removed from the layout need to be placed back on the layout. The same goes for trees, figures, and signs that have been removed. Please put any of these items back in place. At the same time, work can continue on scenery and the expansion so that we show the best layout possible for the Open House.

In a week or so, we will need track to be laid up to the mine area. Collin Martinko and Jake Forbes have volunteered to lay this track.

The Rules Committee is expected to report to the membership at the next Membership Meeting. This should include new rules designed to help manage an Open House.

George Lasley suggested that we put trains out for the entire day and not take up time to change trains. People want to see trains run.

It was also suggested that we restrict trains run at the Open House to be Club-owned equipment. We should try to have four trains running during the event and run them in alternate directions. We will need a dispatcher to manage the HO layout during the Open House. It was decided to have no personal equipment running during the Open House.

Ken Howard stated that we need to make order out the chaos under the layout. Store materials neatly on the proper carts. Also, vacuum the layout (above and beneath) and generally organize all materials.

It was decided to have a cleanup on the HO layout on Wednesday, October 4th after breakfast to prepare for the Open House.

4. Visit from Brookdale Assisted Living

Ken Howard announced that we will have a visit of several residents from Brookdale Senior Living on September 26th. They will arrive at the Club at 10:30 am. We need help to man all the layouts and accompany each guest to help them have a good time.

Ken Howard, Bob Witwer, and Tom Garren volunteered to help. More help is needed and will be requested at the upcoming membership meeting.

5. Planning for the Mountain

A discussion was held to determine what industries we want on the mountain. It was decided that we want a coal mine, a timber operation and a rock quarry. There will be three spur lines that will originate after Main 4 extension crosses the bridge from the legacy layout.

6. Scenery

Volunteers are needed to add scenery on the mountain. Liam Bryant, Jake Forbes and Collin Martinko volunteered to take on this assignment. Bob Witwer and Ken Howard will continue the construction work on Main 4 extension.

7. Track Problems

Jake Forbes and Liam Bryant identified several track problems at the meeting. These include two switches giving problems on the wye, one switch needs the ground throw operating it be adjusted. A track kink on the wye, and no power to the engine house when the switch is thrown, were also reported.

Ken Howard requested that tape be removed from switch frogs and replaced with insulating material, black nail polish. Also, the track cleaning cars need to be run over the layout.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 pm.