

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of January 19, 2025

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm by Ken Howard.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance

Members who attended were Ely Carter-Williamson, Thomas Charnley, Josh Crane, Peter Donofrio, Dan Egy, Jake Forbes, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Alex Griswold, Ken Howard, Chuck Larnerd, Paul Lebiezinski, Collin Martinko, Don McPherson, Phil Michaud, Greg Rehe, Adam Servas, Jim Smith, John Spach, and Bob Witwer.

We had two guests today, Hunter Johnson and Rod Martinko.

3. Status Updates

Ken Howard announced that we have lost car 269, the Heinz pickle car with the open barrels. If anyone finds the car please return it to Ken to get put back in service.

Milo Poulin has the lumber camp is in the shop getting more scenery installed. Bob Witwer has installed the switch motors and will have them wired and the switch panel reworked in a week or so. The buildings for this area are stored under the layout.

The plaster work for Mt. Witwer is on hold until Liam Bryant can get the tunnel portals 3D printed. Paul Lebiezinski has completed the trackwork under the mountain. He will also be adding a crossover to allow access to both Mains 1 and 2 from these staging tracks.

Milo Poulin is working on the quarry and power plant. The switches for this area have been installed but not yet wired. Once they are wired, the existing panel will be reworked to accommodate the new switches.

On Module 4 Chuck Larnerd and Mike Hinman are tweaking the new trackwork.

Ken Howard noted that if anyone encounters a problem with the track, the problem should be reported in the green book. Chuck Larnerd, Mike Hinman, and Dan Egy are monitoring and working to improve the state of our track.

Chuck Larnerd reported that the track has been reworked in the wye and users should now be able to back a train through the wye.

Scenery is progressing from the back corner. Collin Martinko and Mike Hinman are working on the buildings for the industrial area.

The installation of scenery on Module 9 is progressing.

Ken Howard reminded everyone that comments are still desired about the work on the layout. We would like to know that what is being done is agreeable to the membership. Also, as you work on projects, the layout must remain open for most of the time.

If you are working on a project, please put your materials and tools away when you stop work. The table at the back of the room near the mountain and the table near the N scale layout should be clear and available for people to use when putting their equipment on the staging tracks.

Ken stated that a cleanup under the HO layout is badly needed. Bob Witwer suggested we can now scrap a lot of foam pieces that are no longer needed. We will save the larger pieces for future work.

As we clean up the scenic materials, we should determine if we have any materials that we do not need. Once identified, these scenic materials can be sold.

We have many buildings under the layout. We have also had a problem with buildings mysteriously moving around on the layout. If you move a building while working, please put it back where it belongs.

The elevated track is not for car storage. Jake Forbes is doing a good job of keeping the rolling stock shelves well organized.

Members are reminded not to run cars that belong to other members without permission.

Bob Witwer needs a completed inventory of our HO equipment. He will then have to monetize the inventory for insurance purposes.

Ken Howard scheduled two work sessions for cleaning up the under the HO layout.

The first is on Wednesday January 22nd at 10:30 am.

The second is on Saturday February 1st at 1:00 pm.

4. New Business

Additions to the inventory:

Ken Howard offered several items for consideration to be added to the Club inventory.

The first items are two locomotives, a GP38-2 and an SD90Mac. It was agreed that both locos should be added to the inventory. Both engines need the handrails and other details installed. Jim Smith volunteered to take care of installing the details on the locomotives.

There were also several cars for consideration. Three were accepted to go into inventory. They are all three gondolas, two with scrap copper loads, and one with wire coil loads.

Track Standards

Ken announced the formation of a subcommittee to develop track standards for the HO layout. This will include the size (code) rail we want to use going forward, the brand and size of switches we want to use in each situation, etc. It was agreed that electrical wiring

for the layout is a part of this subcommittee. Bob Witwer agreed to lead the Standards subcommittee. He will be joined by Josh Crane, Chuck Larnerd, Collin Martinko, and Jim Smith. This subcommittee will produce a written document that will serve as our guide going forward.

Instagram

There was a discussion about getting a Club Instagram account. It appears that an Instagram account is free. It will require an owner who can authorize others to use as well. One of the benefits of an Instagram account is to allow us to reach a wider audience to announce our shows and open houses. The younger members of the HO committee, Collin, Jake, Ely, Adam, Thomas, and Josh will prepare a proposal to be presented to the HO committee and ultimately the Board.

Tom Garren mentioned that our Facebook page has much outdated content and needs some maintenance to get it back to the present state of the Club.

Randy Foulke is going to approach two car manufacturers about making us some NRV three-bay hopper cars. He will report back after the Amherst show.

Collin Martinko submitted a proposed change to the industrial area that would remove the engine house and straighten out Main 1 in that area. Ken Howard requested a proposal submitted in writing to explain how and where we will have steam servicing facilities if that engine house goes away. Collin requested that anyone with comments on his proposed sketch please send them to him.

The meeting adjourned at 2:07 pm.