

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Membership Meeting of March 20, 2025**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 pm by President John Spach.

John Spach announced the unexpected passing of member Erik Dyke on March 15<sup>th</sup>. The Club members in attendance stood and observed a moment of silence in honor of Erik.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Clif Kelly.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance and on Zoom

Members attending in person were Wayne Aiken, Ely Carter-Willamson, Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Brian Heaton, Ken Howard, Mike Keelean, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, Chuck Larnerd, Larry Martin, Don McPherson, John Mezera, Schaefer O'Neill, Greg Rehe, George Sawyer, Alan Servas, John Spach, John Wallis, Don Weaver, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom were Ed Bottum, Bill Butler, Haydon Harrison, Paul Lebedinski, Phil Michaud, and Gerald Powell.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

We had two guests tonight. Mac Willams and Carl Zetie both attended tonight by Zoom. This is the first meeting for both guests. Mac models in HO and likes British trains, N&W, and UP. He has applied for Associate membership. Carl models in N scale and likes B&O. He has applied for Senior membership.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

John Wallis made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by George Sawyer and passed unanimously.

5. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report. John Wallis made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

6. Communications with the Club

George Sawyer reported he is working with a Mr. Greelee who is interested in making an O gauge donation to the Club.

7. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Clif Kelly reported that we have two new applicants attending their first meeting tonight. Mac Williams has applied for Associate membership. Carl Zetie has applied for Senior membership.

b. Ways and Means

John Wallis reported that the Ways and Means committee is working to begin meetings on the Club budget.

c. House

Alan Servas reported that he has been working on the stains in the carpet. Next, he will shampoo the entire carpet.

d. Library

Wayne Aiken reported on four new books that have been added to the Library:

A 1996 three-rail price guide that covers many brands.

A book of the works of O. Winston Link

The Hogshead Report, a psychological study on locomotive engineers.

A Golden West book on the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie

e. Engineering Committee

N scale – Bernie Dawson reported that much progress has been made on the Spring show raffle layout. Help is now needed from other Club members on adding scenery to the layout.

One of the T Trak modules has been completed with scenery. The team is moving forward with the rest of the modules.

Bernie also stated that N scale NRV decals are needed to letter the N scale F units.

HO scale – Ken Howard reported that the HO team work sessions were successful and now the space under the layout has been cleaned to the point that one can see from front to back under the layout. Another work session is scheduled for Saturday March 22<sup>nd</sup> to begin applying scenery to Mt. Witwer.

Ken also reported that Chuck Larnerd has spent considerable time rewiring Main 4 and the extension going up the mountain to the mine and logging camp.

Ken also noted that Randy Foulke has made the Club aware of a foam product called Gator Foam to which one can mount available photographs and create very realistic backdrops for use on layouts. This technology may be a good fit for the industrial area on Module 9.

S gauge – Nothing to report.

O gauge – Nothing to report.

G scale – Alan Servas reported that he has found no one interested in buying the track cleaning engine previously purchased. He also noted that we need additional power feeds installed to improve the performance of the G scale layout.

f. Program Committee  
John Wallis reported that we have programs lined up through December of 2025.

g. Social Committee  
Randy Foulke reported that a trip is being planned to the Lionel facility in Concord. This will be sometime after mid-May, probably in the June or July timeframe. Also, the trip will have to occur on a weekday, probably a Friday, since Lionel is closed on the weekends. Look for more information on this trip in the near future.

8. Old Business

a. Open House

John Spach announced that we have an Open House scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>. Our normal Open House chair, Clif Kelly, has a conflict so we need someone to volunteer to coordinate this activity. John Mezera agreed to lead the effort for this Open House. Tom Garren will put out a note to the membership about the event.

John Spach asked if we still need to do Open Houses since most Saturdays and Sundays we have a good number of visitors. Also, the last two Open Houses have had a relatively low attendance, especially when compared to a couple of years ago. Bob Witwer suggested that we advertise that we are open on Saturday and Sunday to invite people to stop by. The consensus of the group was that we no longer need special Open Houses. This matter will be taken up with the Board.

b. Inventories

Layout chairmen were reminded that inventories of their assets are due in May. This will also include the Shop and the Library.

c. Spring Show

Bob Witwer reported that we only have 28 tables left to sell for the show. Of that number, half are in negotiation.

We have some new vendors for the Spring show. Some of these include Trainz.com, Southeast Auto, Line Side Details, Bob Linderman Photos, and Stichman who sells towels embroidered with train locos.

Bob reminded everyone to sign up for the jobs and times they wish to work on the staffing sheets provided by Bernie Dawson. Some of the needed positions include set up, porters, and door monitors on Friday.

Bob also stated that unless someone steps up to organize and lead the White Elephant table, we will not do one at this show.

Bernie Dawson reminded everyone to remember that the shows are our number one fund raiser. Additionally, train shows are fun, so please volunteer to help at the show.

Bob Witwer stated that we have several people signed up to do Train Talks, but we need at least three or four more people to volunteer to round out this feature of the

show. Some topics to consider include how to lube an engine, or how to weather a box car or a locomotive. These talks can generate more interest in both the hobby and the Club. They are an important part of the show.

Bob reminded everyone that the show is only six weeks away. We have lost several vendors for this show due to a conflict with the Timonium show.

A new feature of this show is going to be two awards available for the layouts on display. A Best in Show award that will be determined by a panel of judges, and a Most Popular award that will be voted on by the show attendees. The judging will take place on Saturday and the winners will be announced on Sunday morning.

Webmaster Brian Heaton requested pictures from recent shows so the website can be updated and made more current. Please send him any recent show pictures you may have.

Finally, Bob Witwer stated that we someday want to be able to receive both vendor applications and payments online. Look for more on this in the future.

d. Apparel

Randy Foulke reported that the hat order has been completed, and he is making arrangements to pick up the hats. Also, Randy wants to pull together another apparel order before the Spring show. Watch for more information about this order.

e. Sodas

Schaefer O'Neill reminded everyone that the cost of sodas is now \$1.00 each. This is effective immediately. The price increase will make it possible for the Club to stop losing money on soft drinks at the Club.

9. New Business

- a. Don Weaver made a comment about how people are sent to our Club by the staff at Nick's Trains. These folks learn about the hobby from us and then go back and buy trains and supplies from Nick. The conversations at the Club helped them decide to move forward with model trains.

Ken Howard reminded everyone to make sure that visitors to the Club are greeted and talked with. The point is to never underestimate the value of talking to visitors that come to the Club. You may be convincing them to join the hobby.

b. Lost and Found

Chuck Larnerd inquired about items that have been in the lost and found box and on the rack for a long time. It was agreed that such unclaimed items could be donated to Good Will.

c. Scale

Ted Kunstling has donated a postal scale that can be used to weigh cars. The scale is located in the Shop. John Spach reminded everyone that we also have weights to be used to get cars up to spec.

d. Personal Equipment

Ken Howard asked anyone who stores personal equipment on the member shelves in the HO room to create a two or three-color code with which to identify their equipment. Their code should be recorded in a list available near the member storage shelves. He also asked that the codes be established by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Any cars on the member shelves without codes after then will be removed and stored until the owner can be identified.

10. Program

Randy Foulke presented part one of a program on the Chicago stations.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.