

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of May 05, 2025

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President John Spach.

Board members in attendance in person were Richard Calfee, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Schaefer O'Neill, George Sawyer, John Spach, and Bob Witwer.

2. Recognition of Additional Members and Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

Additional members attending in person were Alan Bradley, Ely Carter-Williamson, Bernie Dawson, Mike Hinman, Clif Kelly, John Kuchnia, Ted Kunstling, and John Wallis.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Brad Bouch, Randy Foulke, Tom Magnani, Rich Marrello, Phil Michaud, Milo Poulin, Greg Rehe, and Carl Zetie.

There were no guests in attendance tonight.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Bob Witwer made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as submitted. It was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report. While the final numbers for the Spring show are not yet available, it appears to have been a good show for the Club.

Tom Garren made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

Richard Calfee reported communication with Bill Greenley. He was talking about a collection of cars and engines. It is believed this has been completed. Calfee has also been talking to a gentleman named Mike who will bring a donation to the Clubhouse.

John Spach got a direct contact from the website from Dave Harper. John followed up with Mr. Harper and received a donation of mostly N scale buildings and materials. Some of the buildings are still in kit form and will need to be completed.

Ken Howard reported working with Bob Kaspen in Cary. He has an HO layout and equipment to donate. Ken is working with him to confirm a time for us to inspect the donation. More on this donation will be coming soon.

Randy Foulke reported that Jerome Wheeler is donating his rolling stock and locomotives to the Club. He will deliver the donation to the Club.

Schaefer O'Neill noted that Gene Sing donated a large group of O gauge rolling stock to the Club.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Clif Kelly reported that we currently have 111 members. Clif has six active applications with which he is working. Two may be qualified for membership at the May Membership meeting.

Clif will also be preparing a letter to let everyone know that dues for the new fiscal year will be due on June 1.

b. Ways and Means

The Ways and Means committee report will be given in Executive Session.

c. Facilities

John Spach shared a request from Alan Servas. Alan requests funding to rent a carpet cleaning machine and getting help from two members to help with the machine and moving furniture so that the entire carpet can be cleaned. Bob Witwer made a motion to authorize up to \$100.00 for machine rental and supplies for this project. The motion was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously. It is suggested that the work be done on a Sunday afternoon, or Monday or Thursday. These days will give the carpet some time to dry before we have a lot of people back in the Clubhouse.

d. Engineering

N Scale – Bernie Dawson reported that the N scale raffle layout will be picked up on Wednesday.

John Spach complimented the work on the Club T-Trak layout.

Bernie also stated that storage space for the Club T-Trak modules needs to be identified. He suggested building a storage rack under the existing N scale layout for the modules.

HO – Ken Howard reported that Chuck Larnerd and Paul Lebedinski are working on the layout.

All members should watch for a survey that will be sent out to help determine the direction of the HO layout. If you have interest in the HO layout, please fill out and return the survey.

Also, there will be track standards established in the near future for the HO layout. Be on the lookout for this.

Bob Witwer stated that he has talked to Collin Martinko about completing the scenery on the mountain.

S gauge – Ken Howard reported that we have received a donation of Plasticville S gauge buildings. Some will need re-gluing.

O gauge – Schaefer O'Neill reported that he went to the York TCA show. While there, he attended a presentation and learned that the cables needed to integrate Lionel and MTH should be out later this year.

G scale – Nothing to report.

e. Program Committee

John Wallis reported we have programs scheduled through January of 2026. The May program will be on Arduinos by Peter Jerkewitz.

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke reported that he is still working on the trip to Concord to visit Lionel. It looks like the trip will now happen in August. Details will be forthcoming.

Randy also spent time with the Aberdeen, Carolina and Western. He will investigate possibilities for Club activities with the AC&W.

7. Old Business

a. Spring Show

Bob Witwer reported that the raffle layout will be presented to the winner on Wednesday. Also, an email will be sent out requesting feedback on the show. All thoughts are welcome, what went well, what needs to be improved, what needs to be added, etc. Also, the final Show committee meeting for this show will take place Wednesday at 11:00.

Bob noted that we need twenty porters from 4:00 to 5:30 pm when the show closes. This will facilitate the vendors being able to quickly load up and exit the site. Even though we could have used more help, Bob also stated that we received many complements from vendors about having porters available for tear down.

Ken Howard stated we need to move the boxes back into storage and straighten up the Crew Lounge from the show. All help will be appreciated.

Schaefer O'Neill stated that we could save money on the truck rental by picking it up on Thursday, returning it on Friday by Noon, then picking it up on Sunday and returning it on Monday. This may be something to consider.

Bob stated that on future shows we will change Sunday hours to 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

John Spach stated that he received many complements from the vendors about the way the show was run.

Several other members shared many favorable comments they received from various vendors.

Schaefer O'Neil reported that one vendor caught two people stealing merchandise from his table.

Bob Witwer stated that we need to figure out more ways to get our shows advertised. This can result in getting more vendors and getting more people in the door at our shows.

John Spach stated that he is reposting our ad and general train pictures on our Facebook page.

Bob Witwer thinks we might not need to use Eventbrite in the future.

Randy Foulke stated that we had great response on voting for people's choice layout. He believes we got about a 50% participation rate of voting by paid attendees.

Randy also suggested a modeling contest at the Fall show. He will work on this and develop a proposal for consideration.

Carl Zetie suggested that we have a code to broadcast on the PA system when shoplifting is detected on the show floor. Also, perhaps some high school students could be engaged to be porters for our shows.

Several people mentioned local schools that had service requirements for graduation. These include Broughton, and the Montessori school for examples.

b. Inventories

John Spach reminded layout leaders that inventories are due to the Treasurer by the end of May.

c. Condition of the Club

Richard Calfee noted that he found the N scale throttle left on the HO layout. Also three trains had been left on the layout instead of being removed as required.

8. New Business

None tonight.

9. Adjournment

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.