

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of June 15, 2025

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 who attended were Peter Donofrio, Dan Egy, Tom Garren, Mike Hinman, Ken Howard, Paul Lebie dzinski, Don McPherson, Phil Michaud, and John Spach.

3. Updates

a. Survey

Ken Howard shared the highlights of the recent HO layout survey. The item most requested is to have track that runs well. Chuck Lernard and Ken will summarize the results of the entire survey and distribute them to the members.

b. eBay Sale

Ken Howard announced that on Saturday, June 21st there will be a show and sale of items destined for eBay. The event will run from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm. These items are of high quality and are more expensive than items normally sold at the Club. This event is the result of a request from several members. They expressed a desire to see the merchandise and possibly buy some of the items before they are offered on eBay.

In addition to the eBay items, there is also a 3D printer and a small drill press for sale.

c. Plexiglas

Ken noted that there has been no further action to install additional Plexiglas on the layout, or to trim the existing Plexiglas down to the newly approved heights. Mike Hinman noted that the in-stock Plexiglas is used and scratched. He would prefer to install new, better looking material. Ken suggested that we investigate where we can get new material and perhaps have it cut to height by the vendor.

A work day for installing and trimming Plexiglas has been set for June 18th at 11:00 am. This will depend on the availability of materials.

d. Switches

Paul Lebie dzinski reported that he has completed the installation of turnouts on the staging tracks under the mountain. He has also completed a control panel from which one can control these switches. It should be noted that the logic of the panel is for routing, not individual control. Members are asked to pay attention to this feature and learn how operate it properly.

e. Track Moratorium

Ken Howard reminded everyone that we have a moratorium on making any changes or additions to the track plan until the completion of the new Track Standards manual. Chuck Larnerd has the lead on writing this manual.

Members were also reminded that there is a form to be used to request a change in the track plan. Once the request has been approved, the work can be done. Once the work is complete it will be inspected and must receive final approval before being placed into service. The inspection will be done by Chuck Larnerd or another approved member of the Track Subcommittee.

f. Module 2

Mike Hinman reported that the installation of switch machines on Module 2 is a work in progress. One of the goals of this project is to determine if we can install switch machines under the legacy modules. We should have enough Tortoises in stock to complete this project.

g. Crossovers

No progress to report. Now that track plans are available, we will be able to assess the location and functionality of existing crossovers.

h. Backdrops

There has been no progress on the addition of backdrops on select areas of the HO layout.

i. Redesigned Engine Facility

Nothing to report.

j. Module 4

The track maintenance needed on Module 4 has been completed.

k. New Bulletin Board

Ken Howard pointed out the new bulletin board that has been installed on the door to the layout room. The purpose of the board is to give members a place to advertise items they have for sale or would like to buy. Also, it is a place for special announcements, such as our upcoming Open House.

l. CAD Drawing

Ken Howard reported that Chuck Larnerd is working on a CAD drawing of the layout. This will be a helpful addition to our resource materials.

m. Donation

Ken Howard announced the receipt of a layout from the Cary area. The layout itself is currently being stored in Ken's shed. Items included in the donation were several DCC locos and a number of cars. Several of the locos have been added to Club

inventory and the others are for sale. There are no other donations in the wings at the moment.

n. Club Cars

Ken Howard gave a report from Randy Foulke about new NRV hopper cars. After investigating several vendors, there is no clear leader for supplying the cars. Also the cars will be pricy and require differing amounts of work to complete. It was determined that we should abandon this project for now, as there many things needed that are of a higher priority at this time.

o. Track Committee

There will be a meeting of the Track committee at 11:00 am on June 17th.

p. Bad Order Cars

Members were reminded to please use the existing procedure for Bad Order Cars to assure they get repaired and not put back in service while broken. Members were also reminded not to attempt a repair if they are unsure how to do it.

4. Adjournment

John Spach made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Peter Donofrio and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:44 pm.