

## **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

### **Minutes of the Membership Meeting of June 19, 2025**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

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

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, Alan Bradley, Bernie Dawson, Darrell Dennis, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Clif Kelly, Chuck Larnerd, Terry Luft, Larry Martin, Don McPherson, Greg Rehe, George Sawyer, Alan Servas, Jim Smith, John Spach, John Wallis, Don Weaver, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom included Ed Bottum, Jeff Cole, Alex Griswold, Haydon Harrison, Schaefer O'Neill, Milo Poulin, Gene Sing, and Carl Zetie.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance and on Zoom

We had three guests tonight. Gary Dabbagh is eligible for membership tonight. Ben Wallace attended his first meeting tonight by Zoom, and George Lasley attended to provide the program. Thanks George.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

5. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report. Bob Witwer made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by George Sawyer and passed unanimously.

6. Show and Tell

Bob Witwer showed an NRV pin that will be distributed to the vendors at the Fall show.

7. Communications with the Club

Tom Garren reported that Joe Scales in a hospice facility in Reidsville. Tom and Daphne visited Joe on Monday. This morning Tom was advised that visitations are limited to fifteen minutes effective immediately. Please keep Joe and Becky in your thoughts and prayers.

Tom Garren also gave a report on Ted and Frances Kunstling. They were recently involved in an automobile accident. Mrs. Kunstling was hospitalized for a broken rib. We hope to see both of them up and around again very soon.

George Lasley reported that construction has started on an expansion of Nick's Trains in Raleigh.

## 8. Committee Reports

### a. Membership Committee

Clif Kelly gave a report on the status of membership. We have one applicant eligible to be voted into membership tonight. Gary Dabbagh has satisfied the two meeting requirement and can be voted in as an Associate member. Gary is currently modeling in N scale. Alan Bradley made a motion to accept Gary as an Associate member. The motion was seconded by George Sawyer and passed unanimously.

Clif also introduced Benjamin Wallace who has also applied for Associate membership. Benjamin models in HO and likes the Alaska Railroad. This is his first meeting.

### b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report tonight..

### c. House

John Spach thanked Alan Servas for cleaning the carpet in the Clubhouse. John Spach announced that Mike Hinman is planning an outdoor cleanup session sometime in July. Look for more information soon on this event.

John also thanked the membership for improved trash removal from the Club.

George Sawyer warned everyone of a tree leaning over part of the parking lot. The tree appears to be on road right of way, not on our property.

### d. Engineering Committee

N scale – Bernie Dawson reported that the N scale layout is close to being complete, at least for now. The T-TRAK modules are progressing and should be fully scened by the Fall show. Bernie also stated that the N scale group will begin to lock up their better quality locomotives to help prevent damage.

HO – Ken Howard reported that the existing Plexiglas has been cut down to the preferred height. The immediate projects for the HO layout are correcting some trackwork problems and the installation of more Plexiglas around the layout.

Ken also announced that Chuck Larnerd is now the chair of the Track Subcommittee. All track projects must now be approved before work begins. The work will be inspected and must be passed before going into service.

Several trouble spots have been identified and will be fixed first. This may mean there will be some downtime on Mains 1 and 2. The downtime will be kept to a minimum.

Chuck Larnerd asked everyone to use the track book to document problems. Please be specific and give detailed descriptions of the problems.

Ken Howard reported that he recently pulled eight cars off the shelf to make up a passenger train. Six of the cars needed repairs before they could be operated. Also, a DCC equipped engine was damaged and not reported. Please follow the established procedures to report bad order cars and locomotives needing repairs.

John Spach requested that if you see someone mishandling equipment, speak up and help them do better.

S gauge – John Spach stated nothing new to report. The layout is running well.

O gauge – George Sawyer stated that he is repairing several locomotives. Other than that, things on the layout are OK.

Wayne Aiken asked if the O group needed to obtain a copy of the Greenberg repair manual. George Sawyer stated that we already have all of that information in other publications.

G scale – Alan Servas reported that he has found a source for the coupler parts needed to repair the damaged cars on the G scale layout. He will be getting some help from the folks at New Hope Valley to make the needed repairs.

e. Program Committee

John Wallis reported that we have programs lined up through February of 2026. Next month's program will be on consisting locomotives using a Digitrax throttle by Bernie Dawson.

Don Weaver volunteered to do a program featuring a Lionel short for the 1930's. He is scheduled for March 2026.

John Wallis also announced that the North Raleigh N scale group will be at Windsor Point the weekend of July 19-20. Our T-TRAK modules will be incorporated into this layout.

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke reported that the Lionel trip will be August 13<sup>th</sup>. We have seventeen signed up at this time. If you need to sign up, let Randy know tonight. Randy also needs a volunteer to captain the group on this trip. George Sawyer volunteered to handle this assignment. The actual time of the tour has yet to be determined, but Randy is shooting for 11:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Randy also noted that the AC&W shop tour is scheduled for September 5<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 - 3:00 pm. Registration will close at the August 4<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. Spouses are welcome too. The cost is \$25.00 per person. You must pay in advance.

Randy is also investigating an AC&W train outing. Look for more information on this event later. It may involve joining with other local groups such as North Raleigh and CPD-13.

## 9. Old Business

### a. Fall Show

Bob Witwer reported that the Fall show will feature over 400 tables and 16-17 layouts. The layouts will be intermingled with the vendor tables at this show.

A new feature of the show will be a Craftsman Showcase. We hope to partner with CPD-13 to put on this event. It will be a chance for people to bring examples of their modeling work to be displayed and judged. Planned categories include locomotives, rolling stock, structures, and dioramas. We need two volunteers from our membership to head up this portion of the show. One of these volunteers will need to lead/organize and manage the event. Please see Bob if you are interested.

Bob stated that we have 27 sponsors. John Wallis is contacting them to verify that we have all their information correct. Gregy Rehe will be using their logos to help advertise the show.

July 9<sup>th</sup> will be the first meeting of the Show Committee at 11:00 am.

### b. Apparel

Randy Foulke stated that we have a few hats for immediate sale. He will be receiving more soon. Also, he will be submitting an apparel order soon, so if you want a new shirt or other item, please fill out the order form and prepay for your item by the end of June.

## 10. New Business

### a. eBay Show and Sale

Ken Howard announced that we are having an eBay Show and Sale on Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. Items intended to be sold on eBay will be available for sale to Club members first. The majority of the items are HO, including some DCC and sounder locomotives. Additionally we have a 3D printer, a drill press with a Dremel, and a music box.

### b. Library Update

Wayne Aiken announced we have received 75 new books as a result of a new donation. Many of the books feature the North Eastern railroads. Also we received the two-volume Cass collection, a book on the Budd RDC cars, a John Armstrong book on real railroads, and an early 20<sup>th</sup> century book by a railroad signalman. Check out these new books.

### c. Bill Hanley

George Lasley announced that if you had equipment with Bill Hanley, you can retrieve it by contacting Charlie Rausch.

11. Program

George Lasley presented a program on painting backdrops. This was a very helpful presentation for our members.

12. Adjournment

Bob Witwer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by John Wallis and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.