

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of July 07, 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, John Spach, and Bob Witwer.

George Sawyer attended by Zoom.

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

Additional members attending in person were John Kuchnia and John Wallis.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Randy Foulke, Alex Griswold, Phil Michaud, and Milo Poulin.

One Guest, Ted Salamone attended by Zoom. This is Ted's first meeting. He models HO and likes several Northeastern roads as well as some European prototypes.

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 Ken Howard and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

George Sawyer asked if a report is planned to track budget versus actuals. After some discussion it was decided to provide this report on a quarterly basis.

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

5. Communications with the Club

Ken Howard reported talking to Tommy Pendergast. He has a 5x8 HO layout that he wants to donate to the Club. He had eight inches of rain yesterday and will contact Ken when things dry out enough so we can get the layout out of his basement.

Tom Garren reported that Joe Scales went from hospice care back to the hospital and today returned to a rehab facility in Eden.

Tom also reported that Larry Pearlman has resigned from the Club. He has accepted a new job and is moving to Greenville, SC.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Tom Garren reported that we have three applicants who may be eligible for membership votes on July 17th. They are Greg Severson, Benjamin Wallace, and Ted Salamone. They each have attended one meeting. If they attend the July Membership meeting, they could be voted into the Club. Ted also needs to complete an application by that time.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. House

John Spach stated that he hopes to set a work session for outside cleanup at the July Membership meeting.

Schaefer O'Neill is working with the team that cleans his business to give us an estimate for cleaning the Clubhouse initially and every two weeks after that. He hopes to have that estimate soon.

George Sawyer reminded everyone that a pine tree in the road right of way is leaning toward our parking lot. Be careful if you park near it. The City of Raleigh should be contacted.

John Spach noted that food is still occasionally left in the waste cans. Members are reminded to take food and containers home for disposal.

d. Engineering

N Scale – John Wallis reported the N scale show at Windsor Point will happen the weekend of July 19-20. The Club T-TRAK layout will be joining North Raleigh at this show.

HO – Ken Howard reported that Paul Lebedinski has finished the control panel for the lumber camp. Chuck Larned is working track specifications for the HO layout.

S gauge – Nothing to report.

O gauge – George Sawyer has been working through several donations we received recently. It will take some time to go through all of these donations.

G gauge – Nothing to report.

7. Old Business

a. eBay

John Spach noted that we are still searching for someone to take over our eBay sales. In the meantime, he is handling this task. We listed 26 items and currently have 12 of them left for sale. To date we have taken in over \$1,500.00 for the Club. If the items still listed do not sell by the time to relist them, John will lower the price.

b. Fall Show

Bob Witwer reported that we will have a minimum of 402 tables at the show of which 360 are already reserved. There is a chance of several new vendors coming to the show that will want 10 or 20 tables each. Should we need to, the aisles could be compressed to allow for more tables, We could also use one of the two rooms off the main floor for vendors if necessary. The show letter, terms and conditions, and floor layout will be mailed out to the vendors this week.

John Wallis has confirmed 24 of our 27 sponsors.

Bob Witwer mentioned that Sipping and Switching will have a layout at the show.

We will need more staff to manage set up time. We have more doors in the Graham building than in the Expo building.

Train talks will be done again, this time utilizing one of the rooms off the main floor.

We are also expecting a raffle layout.

The Show committee will meet this Wednesday after breakfast. Future meetings will be held on alternate Saturdays. Watch for announcements.

c. BLI Address Changer

The Club now has a Broadway Limited Imports Address changer courtesy of the N scale group. This tool allows the user to easily change the address of a DCC locomotive. So far the device has been well received and has been used by several people. It is set up with both N and HO scale tracks. Look for the new tool in the Shop.

d. Lockers

John Spach announced that we have two lockers available for rent. Please let John or any other Board member know if you are interested.

e. Checks

Schaefer O'Neill announced that if you are paying by check, just note what you are paying for on the check and drop it in the black box in the Library. You no longer need to place the check in an envelope.

f. HO Progress

Richard Calfee inquired as to when the HO extension was going to be completed. Ken Howard responded that the track work has been mostly completed. There are a few items still outstanding as well as some maintenance items that need to be performed.

8. New Business

a. Instagram Account

John Spach announced that we now have an Instagram account, thanks to Bob Witwer and his grandson. More importantly, we have a group of young members headed up by Alec Urban who are willing to manage the account and monitor its usage. Members are encouraged to check it out and follow the account with their own Instagram accounts to help the Club get maximum exposure with this tool. The same holds true for our Facebook account as well.

b. New HO Donation

John Kuchnia reported that he is working with a person on an HO donation. He will pick up the items after breakfast at Barry's Café on a Wednesday.

9. Adjournment

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.