

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of August 17, 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 Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Clif Kelly, Chuck Larnerd, Don McPherson, Phil Michaud, Jim Smith, John Spach, and Bob Witwer.

3. Updates

This is the first meeting held since June. Today was for catch up and review.

Chuck Larnerd has created track standards as well as forms and instructions for requesting changes to the HO layout and reporting needed repairs. The forms are stored in the yellow book.

Ken Howard stated that we need an accurate map of the layout as it currently exists, before we start any changes. Chuck Larnerd is creating this map with Any Rail software. Ken Howard also reminded members to see the print out of the Any Rail track map in the Shop for use in reporting track problems.

The eBay show and sale in June made over \$500.00 for the Club. The remaining items were listed on eBay by John Spach. Most items have sold, with only a few remaining.

Chuck Larnerd suggested the Plexiglas would be more useful if it could either fold down or slide out of the way when needed. Randy Foulke suggested that the Plexiglas not be too easy to remove. It was felt that if we have the material on hand, we should extend the Plexiglas down the front side of the layout to the extension as originally planned. Mike Hinman will be asked to do this work as well as adding a Plexiglas cover to the engine rack.

Mike Hinman is also working on the installation of Tortoise switch machine motors on Module 2 as a proof of concept for installation in the rest of the legacy layout.

It is believed that Paul Lebedinski and Peter Donofrio are working on the logging camp area of the extension.

Chuck Larnerd stated that the staging tracks off of Main 2 are not working. In fact, they are taped over to prevent access. Paul Lebedinski will be asked about this situation.

Chuck Larnerd noted that we need to know the skills of our members. John Spach suggested we should have workshops to both train and certify members to do certain things such as track work, scenery, and wiring. Jim Smith also voiced approval for a simple certification program. Ken Howard suggested we start with a track certification program and then expand from there.

Ken Howard announced that there will be no raffle layout for the Fall show this year. The limited income made from this activity does not match the effort and cost for creating the layout.

Chuck Larned commented on the difficulty we have obtaining Peco Unifrog switches. He stated how we can modify other models to work with DCC, but this is not as easy as buying the switches ready to drop into the layout. John Spach suggested trying eBay UK for Unifrog switches.

Randy Foulke stated that he is still working on the backdrops for the HO layout. Ken Howard stated that we would like to have them in time for use at the October Open House.

Wayne Aiken acknowledged a donation of several high quality books. This yielded a banker's box of new titles as well as producing a number of duplicates for sale.

Bob Witwer is working with Alec Urban and Collin Martinko on completing the scenery on Mt. Witwer.

Randy Foulke asked to be allowed to use Dispatcher discretion on allowing personal equipment to be used at the Open House. This request was granted. Randy will also check the LocoNet plugs on the layout prior to the Open House.

John Spach stated that though we have an assortment of motive power, he would like to know what we need. Tom Garren asked to clarify if this means purchasing occasionally rather than using only donated items. The answer was Yes.

Next meeting is on September 21st at 1:00 pm.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:08 pm.