

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of August 04, 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.

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

Additional members attending in person were Bernie Dawson, Randy Foulke, Mike Hinman, and Clif Kelly.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Bill Butler, Alex Griswold, Chuck Larned, George List, Rich Marrello, Phil Michaud, Milo Poulin, and Carl Zetie.

One Guest, Cat Flynn attended by Zoom. This is Cat's first meeting. She models S gauge.

### **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.

Bob Witwer 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 Rick Hall about a 4x8 HO layout donation in North Raleigh. We need to arrange to get it.

Ken is also working with Tommy Penticost in Hurdle Mills. He has a 5x8 HO layout that he wants to donate to the Club. Rain continues to make access to this layout impossible at the moment. Ken will continue to work with the owner and set a date after the weather breaks so we can get the layout out of his basement.

Ken further reported communication with Aeris Williams of Blockstar Auctions. He will be having an online auction of O gauge equipment starting this week. Ken will send an email to the O gauge group in case anyone is interested in participating in this auction.

Ken also reported that Dr. Lou has made a donation of both plywood and Homasote to the Club. These are available for members starting their own layouts.

Tom Garren reported that Joe Scales is home and recovering very slowly from his illness.

## 6. Committee Reports

### a. Membership

Clif Kelly reported that we have 76 paid members with 30 still owing their dues for FY 25-26. Clif Kelly and Tom Garren will work on an email to be sent to the delinquent members. This will happen after we do a final check with the Treasurer in case of a recent payment.

We also welcomed Cat Attack Flynn who has applied to become an Associate member. She models S gauge. This is her first meeting.

### b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

### c. House

Mike Hinman noted the outside work session was canceled due to weather. It will be rescheduled in the future.

Schaefer O'Neill is bringing a cabinet to go in the corner under the TV. This will give us a place to store AV accessories such as the TV remote, keyboard, and mouse for the computer.

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

Schaefer has also arranged for a cleaning service to vacuum the Clubhouse and clean up every two weeks.

Mike Hinman reminded everyone that we had seen a few sugar ants in the Clubhouse. There is spray in the cabinet in the men's room. If you see any ants, please spray them.

### d. Engineering

N Scale – Bernie Dawson reported the N scale group has had three meetings over the past few weeks. They are engaged in redesigning the permanent layout. They will be adding two reversing loops. The elevated loop has been converted to DC as they were having trouble with the DCC trolleys. The noisy turntable will be removed and an industrial switching area on the back side of the layout will be added. Also, a loop will be added at the Crew Lounge end of the layout.

Bernie also stated that the T-TRAK modules will be completed and fully sceniced by the Fall show.

HO – Ken Howard reported that Milo Poulin is working on the power plant and quarry area of the extension. Alec Urban is working on the scenery on Mt. Witwer. Trackwork

under the mountain is complete and working. There is one track repair needed on the backside of the layout to fix a small vertical problem.

Richard Calfee asked if there is a plan for fixing known problems on the N scale layout. Bernie Dawson replied that the team is aware of the problem and are developing plan to fix the problems.

The next HO committee meeting will be on August 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 here at the Clubhouse. At this meeting, we will be looking at adding some new equipment to the inventory including some passenger cars and more engines. We will also begin to discuss the track procedures.

Chuck Larnerd reported that the wiring is done on Mains 3 and 4. He will next start to clean up the wiring on Main 2. Chuck also wants to add a short lateral file under the layout to store track materials.

Chuck is also creating a CAD version of the HO layout. He is using Any Rail 7x for this work.

S gauge – George List reported the addition of a new member to the S gauge group, Cat Flynn.

O gauge – Schaefer O'Neill noted that the O gauge group has received several donations. They are now working through all of these items.

G gauge – John Spach noted that we have a received a nice donation from Larry Pearlman. The new engine and seven cars on the layout are from this donation. There are also some additional pieces of G gauge equipment that will ultimately be for sale.

e. Program

Randy Foulke reported that we have programs lined up through May of 2026.

f. Social Committee

Lionel tour - Randy Foulke reported that we have one spot left for the Lionel tour on August 13<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested, contact Larry Martin.

AC&W Shop Tour – Randy Foulke reported that we have twelve people going on September 5<sup>th</sup> to the shop tour in Candor, NC. The tour will start promptly at 1:00 pm, so plan your travel accordingly. Randy estimates 1.5 to 1.75 hours to travel from Raleigh to Candor.

7. Old Business

a. Lockers

John Spach noted that we still have two lockers available for rent. If you are interested, please see any Board member.

b. eBay

John Spach reported that eBay sales are moving along well. So far we have made \$2,300 from eBay sales with another \$1,000 to be sold.

John also noted that we are still searching for someone to take over our eBay sales. In the meantime, he is handling this task.

c. Instagram

John Spach reported that thanks to Alec Urban and Bob Witwer we now have an active Instagram account.

d. Fall Show

Bob Witwer reported that we are modifying the floor plan to give us 500 vendor tables at the show.

We will have two new speakers at Train Talks doing a talk on servicing engines. Even though their focus will be on Lionel equipment, there will be some good information for everyone in this presentation.

The layout locations have been established for the show. Thanks to Bob and Randy for this work. Randy Foulke will follow up with the Danville group.

A new feature of the show will be a scavenger hunt. This effort will be led and coordinated by Peter Donofrio. Thanks Pete.

Bernie Dawson has created new signup sheets for staffing the Fall show. Please contact Bernie to sign up for shifts on your favorite work area of the show.

The Children's Activity Table will be led by Alec Urban and Emily this year. We will need some more volunteers for this area.

Train Talks is scheduled for the show.

A new feature of the show is a Craftsman Showcase. This will be a competition of several classes of models. We need volunteers to supervise the showcase area. We will need to protect the models that have been entered in this area of the show.

#### Closeup

Bernie stated that we now have space on the signup sheet for loading up the Club table on Sunday evening and unloading it at the Clubhouse. Also, we will sign up Sunday evening porters to help the vendors load up their items to go home.

With the passing of John Wallis, we need a volunteer to work with our sponsors. Please let Bob know if you are interested.

Bob Witwer noted that we have some new vendors coming to the show. One is Hobby Laser Products. This is the vendor who made the laser cut bridge that was shown last time on Rick Allen's layout.

Bob reminded everyone to look for ways to advertise the show. We need to get the name out in as many ways as possible. Ken Howard suggested Next Door.

#### e. Lost & Found

Ken Howard asked if anyone knows the owner of an Atlas track planning book that has been sitting around for weeks. There are notes written on the book referring to someone named Heidi. It is believed that Wayne Aiken talked to her when she called asking for someone to help with wiring her layout. The book will be stored pending confirmation of its origin with Wayne.

#### f. Track Guidelines

Chuck Larnerd wonders what to do with new track guidelines that he sent to John Wallis. Now this should be sent to Ken Howard.

#### g. Open House

Phil Michaud requested that the Clubhouse be cleaned up in preparation for the October 11<sup>th</sup> Open House.

### 8. New Business

#### Electronic Payments

Schaefer O'Neill asked if we could set up to do reimbursements using a form of electronic payment such as Zelle, or another product.

Bob Witwer made a motion to approve the use electronic reimbursements. The motion was seconded by John Spach and passed unanimously.

Look for more information on this concept in the future.

### 9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Witwer. It was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously. The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.