

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of September 01, 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, George Sawyer, John Spach, and Bob Witwer.

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

Additional members attending in person were Wayne Aiken, Bernie Dawson, Clif Kelly, Ted Kunstling, and Alan Servas.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Cat Flynn, Alex Griswold, Phil Michaud, Milo Poulin, and Carl Zetie.

Three guests attended by Zoom. They were Jack McDonald, Michael Troino, and Christopher Troino. This is Jack's second meeting and Mike and Christopher's first meeting.

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

### **5. Communications with the Club**

Richard Calfee reported taking one call with a person wanting a table at the show. The information has been handed over to Bob Witwer.

Richard Calfee also reported talking to a person about donating a layout. He replied that we would gladly take the locomotives, cars, buildings, etc., but for now, we are not taking entire layouts.

### **6. Committee Reports**

#### **a. Membership**

Clif Kelly reported that several members have dropped their membership this year. There are a few still outstanding who may pay their dues. However, tonight is the deadline for the payment of dues.

Mike Troino and his son Chris have both applied to become Associate members. They model in HO scale and like CSX and NS. Chris likes NYC. This is their first meeting.

We also welcomed Jack McDonald. This is Jack's second meeting. Jack models HO scale and likes Santa Fe.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. House

Alan Servas will readdress the spot in the carpet in the Crew Lounge.

Library – Wayne Aiken reported that most of the recently donated have been processed and are now on the shelves in the Library.

d. Engineering

N Scale – Bernie Dawson reported the N scale group is working on changes to the permanent layout. Bernie shared a plan showing the proposed improvements that was developed by Milo Poulin. Bernie stated that formerly approved budget represented both their maintenance needs and the additional funds they need for the layout improvement, of about \$1,200.00. The Board agreed that those funds have already been approved combined with the other \$1,300.00 for their maintenance needs. No further action from the Board is required. The improvements will add more operational opportunities for the N scale layout.

Bernie noted that it can be difficult to get to the N scale layout if there are people running on the HO layout sitting on stools in the area near the N scale controls.

Milo noted that he will be working on wiring next Sunday. The elevated railway has been reimagined and is in place along with a lot of work in the city area. However, no work will be done on the N scale expansion until after the Open House and the Fall show.

Plans are for all trackwork to be functioning for the October Open House.

Another goal for the N scale group is to have all the T-TRAK modules sceniced by the Fall show.

HO – Ken Howard noted that Mike Hinnan is working on a procedure for installing Tortoise switch machines on the legacy modules. Chuck Larnerd is working on improving the wiring on the HO layout.

John Spach noted that he recently participated in a test of the logging camp area, and all track and switches worked fine. He was able to switch cars with no problem at the camp. Ken Howard noted that in the next few weeks, additional scenery and buildings will be added to that area.

For the Open House Ken hopes to have more scenery prepared on Mt. Witwer to improve the look of the mountain. Bob Witwer requested help from someone who is light in weight so they can climb on the layout to perform the scenicing of the mountain. Future plans will include how to put a town near the coal mine.

We almost have a complete CAD based diagram for the entire HO layout. Ken noted that we have one area that needs major repair to re-establish the proper radius on a curve. This was altered when a switch was cut in without authorization. The repair will be done sometime after the Open House.

Ken Howard asked anyone that is using the member's storage shelves to indicate their preferred color code on the sheet beside the shelves and to install said markings on their equipment. Any items stored on these shelves without identification will be removed from the shelves and stored safely until claimed by their owners.

S Gauge – John Spach noted we have received a large donation of American Flyer equipment. The S group is very happy to have gotten this equipment.

O Gauge – George Sawyer reported that the new switch has been installed and is working. Additionally, George continues to sort through many items received recently in donations.

G Scale – Alan Servas was glad to get the report about the improved operations of the layout. Thanks to Chuck Larnerd for cleaning track and locomotive pickups.

e. Program

John Spach reported for Randy Foulke that we have programs lined up through May of 2026, perhaps even July of 2026. If you would like to do a program, please let Randy know.

f. Social Committee

We have sixteen signed up to attend the AC&W shop tour in Candor, NC on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Look for a detailed email from Randy in the next day or two.

The third annual Club dinner is being planned for some time in January. Look for more details in the future.

7. Old Business

a. Fall Show

Bob Witwer reported that we have 490 tables committed at this time. Payment for these tables is due on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a meeting of the Craftsman Showcase committee on Wednesday. A flyer is being developed to promote this new feature of the show.

There will be no raffle layout from the Club at the Fall show. The monetary return on our recent raffle layouts has not met expectations.

We are looking for a volunteer to take over the coordination of our show sponsors, a job formerly done by John Wallis. If you are interested, please let Bob Witwer know.

More advertising is needed to drive both attendance and sales at the show. If you have any ideas of how we can enhance our existing advertising, please let Bob know.

We will have a representative from NCDOT at the Fall show.

We have confirmed the schedule and buildings for both the Spring and Fall shows in 2026.

Bernie Dawson reminded everyone that help is needed at the show. Please sign up on the sheets provided. Otherwise, Bernie will begin calling Club members to fill the work schedule for the show.

- b. Richard Calfee asked why we have let dues collection run on for three months this year. John Spach responded that it is very important to maintain our membership to make the Club successful.

## 8. New Business

### Scale Trains Meet and Greet

Bob Witwer announced that Scale Trains wants to stop by and have a Meet and Greet on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Please note this is the same night as our October Membership Meeting. We have been asked to invite other clubs in our area. At this time we are considering either the Clubhouse or the fellowship hall at the Cary Church of Christ. Stay tuned for more information on this event.

## 9. Adjournment

George Sawyer made a motion to adjourn the public portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Richard Calfee and passed unanimously. The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.