

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of December 01, 2025**

### **1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Vice President Ken Howard.

Board members in attendance in person were Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Schaefer O'Neill, George Sawyer, 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, Alan Servas, and Gene Sing.

Additional members attending by Zoom included Cat Attack, Randy Foulke, Haydon Harrison, Mike Hinman, George List, Rich Marrello, John Mezera, Greg Rehe, and Ben Wallace.

There were no guests in attendance tonight.

### **3. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

George Sawyer made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as submitted. It was seconded by Bob Witwer 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 Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

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

Ken Howard reported talking with Erika Gyori (Transitions Made Simple) about a Lionel layout available in Chapel Hill. We believe we want the locos, rolling stock, track and structures but not the tables. George Sawyer will follow up on this item.

We also have had a call from Carroll Frasso wanting help with a Lionel layout. George Sawyer will also follow up with her to determine what she is requesting. It may be that a member would like to help her individually. This type of request is normally beyond the scope of the Club.

John Spach sent a text from a person from Michigan who is interested in getting his prewar Lionel OO NYC Hudson set to the Club. John Spach will be asked to follow up with this person and verify this is a donation - not a request for us to buy.

Schaefer O'Neill commented that our cleaning lady brought her husband by on Saturday. He likes trains and was very impressed with the Club.

## 6. Committee Reports

### a. Membership

Clif Kelly reported that we have 97 members at this time. We have one applicant who can be voted in at the December Membership meeting if he attends the meeting.

### b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

### c. House

Ken Howard noted we have people leaving food containers again. We also ran out of trash bags last week. Ken has obtained some bags for now.

### d. Engineering

N Scale – Bernie Dawson reported the permanent layout continues to grow and be improved. Thanks go to Milo Poulin for doing the work on this layout.

Expansion plans for the T-TRAK layout are underway and will be shared with the Board at a future meeting.

HO – Ken Howard reported that a work session was held to clean the track and switches. It was determined that two switches need repairs or replacement to operate properly.

A second work session occurred last Wednesday where work was done on Mt. Witwer. Thanks to John Spach's granddaughter for helping with this work. Unfortunately, we suffered a structural failure on the mountain. This work will be redone with the aid of metal screen wire for support.

Ken Howard requested \$325.00 from the Board for the purchase of two boxes of trees needed to complete the scenery on the layout. Bob Witwer made a motion to approve the expenditure. It was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.

S gauge – George List requested that we find a different place to store trash instead of placing it beside the S gauge layout. George also noted that we have a large amount of S gauge equipment in boxes. He would like to be able to display some of this equipment to both offer for sale and to display to be run on the layout. George Sawyer offered shelf space on the O gauge shelves for the for sale items.

O gauge – George Sawyer reported that O gauge layout is working OK at this time. He will begin to work on some items to have them ready for sale at the shows we normally frequent early in the year, such as Thomasville and Mebane.

Schaefer O'Neill will verify the details of the Thomasville show with Jackie Harper.

G scale – Alan Servas reported that he is working on the engine that failed during the October Open House. He also noted that we need to make N scale more visible on the Club website. Tom Garren will investigate this item.

e. Program

Randy Foulke reported that we have programs scheduled through August of 2026. Randy will provide the December program on EMD E units.

f. Social

Randy Foulke reported that so far three people have signed up to go to the Timonium show in late January. This is not an official NRV trip.

Randy also announced that the third annual NRV Club Dinner will take place at the Golden Corral located at the intersection of S. Wilmington St. and Tryon Rd. on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-9:00 pm. A Yankee swap gift exchange will take place for all who want to participate. Look for more details in the Whistle Post. Also, please let Randy know if you plan on attending the dinner.

g. Library

Wayne Aiken reported we are expecting a new book donation within the next two weeks. We have also gotten a few new items in the Library. Look on the table in the Library to see these items.

7. Old Business

a. Fall Show

Bob Witwer reported that he and Schaefer are working to complete the final report on the Fall show. Bob also verified that the winners of the layout competition have been mailed their checks. No further action is required on this item.

b. Spring Show

Bob Witer reported that the Spring show will be on May 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, in the Jim Graham building. This weekend means that on half of the years the Spring show will be on Memorial day weekend. The floor layout for this show will accommodate up to 400 vendor tables and sixteen layouts. We have received many commitments from our vendors already. Other plans for the Spring show include:

- The Craftsman Showcase will be held again.
- A Back Shop Sales area will be added to the Club table in which Club members can sell their personal merchandise.
- Train Talks will be continued.
- The new vendor letter will be sent out in January.

Ken Howard asked that a show budget be prepared for the Spring show.

Tom Garren noted that the website has been updated with the dates and preliminary flyers for both of 2026 shows. We have not updated the website with new pictures from our recent shows.

c. Website

Tom Garren noted that we are still looking for someone well versed in Word Press to help with our website. This may require hiring someone to help us maintain and expand the website. Schaefer O'Neill suggested looking for a contractor on Freelancer.com. He feels that we can provide a scope of work and take bids from several qualified candidates. This will be a 2026 project.

8. New Business

a. Soft Drinks

Wayne Aiken reported that based on his observations when he restocks the refrigerator, it appears that only about 50% of the drinks are actually paid for. This item will be discussed in both the Whistle Post and the Membership meeting.

b. Charitable Contribution

George Sawyer brought up the topic of our long standing practice of passing the hat and making a donation to two deserving charities during the December and January meetings. It was noted that the Club usually matched an amount of the members' donations. George Sawyer made a motion that the Club match up to \$500.00 of the members' donations. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously. The actual charities will be determined at the December Membership meeting. Members will have a chance to make a donation through the January Membership meeting.

c. Memorial Donation

Gene Sing announced a donation to the Club building fund from Jane Walz in honor of her late husband Dick Walz. Dick is a former member of the Club. Look for a new plaque honoring Dick to be displayed at the Club.

9. Adjournment

George Sawyer moved the meeting be adjourned and the Board go into executive session. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously. The public portion of the meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.