

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of January 18, 2026

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 Alan Bradley, Peter Donofrio, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Chuck Larnerd, Paul Lebiedenski, Don McPherson, Phil Michaud, Len Neiman, Greg Rehe, Jim Smith, and John Spach.

3. Updates on Current Projects

Ken reviewed the items in progress on the layout.

Chuck Larnerd has been working on the emergency curve replacement on Main 2. The second wye is currently not operable but is being worked on by Chuck Larnerd and Paul Lebiedenski.

The mountain and the track beneath are being redone. Work is being done by Chuck Larnerd, Greg Rehe, and Collin Martinko. Discussions what members want as the final product was extensive. We settled on a plan with 2 mains and 3 set up tracks with 3" separations to be laid on cork road bed with minimum thirty inch radius curves. Each turnout is to be operated independently from the control panel. Set up tracks will be unpowered until a control switch is thrown.

The structure to support the rest of Mt. Witwer is under construction. Plaster to follow. Greg Rehe and Paul Lebiedenski are leading the effort.

The Main 4 extension track is being redone by Chuck Larnerd, Len Nieman, Ken Howard, and Greg Rehe.

The Main 1 siding extension along modules 2 through 4 is on hold due to other work taking priority but has been approved. The siding will become a setup track and will be powered by a control switch. Ken Howard and Greg Rehe will lead.

4. New Project Discussions

Ken Howard suggested that other people be assigned to take out the crossovers and replace them with new track. This can be handled on a case by case basis and will allow individual members to acquire track construction skills. Chuck Larnerd has a map showing the crossovers to be removed when time and manpower permit.

Another proposed project is to connect the internal yard to Main lines on Module 2. Chuck Larnerd and Alan Bradley have working plans for this upgrade. Construction can begin as soon as the exact plans for the yard are reconciled. Jim Smith, Peter Denofrio, and Alan Bradley are interested in this project. The membership approved the overall project.

Jim Smith volunteered to work on the internal yard along with Pete Donofrio and Alan Bradley.

Next big project is to work on switches on back side of layout on Mains 1 and 3.

5. New Business

Paul Lebiecinski suggested we investigate the use of surface-mounted Peco switch motors. It was decided to get three of these motors to try in an area where under the table switch machines are difficult to install and maintain.

Mike Hinman has implemented a system of lanyards with number tags for people to wear showing the track they are using. Alex Griswold stated that the person with tag for a given line should also act as the dispatcher for that line.

We ultimately want to identify switch (turnout) numbers on the layout. The numbers are on hand, but track modifications must be completed before numbering.

6. Reminder

We are still running a DCC layout with a DC mindset. Please work with other members to run multiple trains on a track.

7. Next meeting February 15th at 1 pm.