

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of February 15, 2026

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm by Ken Howard.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance

Members who attended were Wayne Aiken, Peter Donofrio, Jake Forbes, Alex Griswold, Mike Hinman, Ken Howard, Chuck Larnerd, Don McPherson, Phil Michaud, Greg Rehe, Alec Urban, Bob Witwer, and Angelo Yurko.

3. Updates on Current Projects

The HO power supply started making noise this past week. Mike Hinman traced the problem to a fan motor that appears to be failing and causing noise and intermittent shutdowns. A replacement fan has been ordered and received. Mike will install the new unit. Please report any further problems with the power supply.

Chuck Larnerd has completed emergency curve replacement on Main 2. The second wye is operable manually, but Chuck Larnerd and Paul Lebieski are working on switch motors and operating panel.

Chuck Larnerd also reported that the electrical bus for Main #2 is approximately 2/3 completed. He is planning to add a single central bus to handle accessories.

Work continues on track beneath Mount Witwer.

The structure to support the rest of Mt. Witwer is nearly finished. Plaster to follow. Greg Rehe has put in many hours leading the effort.

The Main 4 extension track is being re-laid by Greg Rehe. Grades and bridges have been reestablished. Track to follow.

As authorized projects have proceeded toward completion, the Main #1 siding extension along modules 2 through 4 has been scheduled for the week of February 16, 2026. The siding will become a setup track and will be powered by a control switch.

Alex Griswold and others indicated that the use of lanyards to identify who is running on which main seems to be working smoothly.

4. New Project Discussions

The proposed project to connect the internal yard to Main #4 on Module 2 was reviewed. Chuck Larnerd's and Alan Bradley's plans for this upgrade were discussed. The membership approved the overall project as shown on Chuck's plan that preserves the

stub sidings on the west end of the yard. This project can proceed. Jim Smith, Peter Donofrio, and Alan Bradley have expressed interest in this work.

Len Nieman has proposed a modification of the Main #4 yard layout on Module 9. Len provided a track plan of the existing yard for comparison to the proposed yard. The modifications will allow a better bypass for Main #4 and smooth out entry curves. The plan was approved by voice vote of the members present.

5. New Business

Ken Howard showed five freight cars for possible inclusion in the HO roster. These included an N&W covered hopper, a 40' Bangor and Aroostook box car, two Main Central 40' box cars, and a lumber log loader flatcar. The members decided to adopt all five cars. Ken Howard will assign numbers and update the inventory. John Spach will be asked to upgrade trucks and couplers to Club specifications.

Ken Howard will check with Paul Lebedenski to see if he has purchased the three of PECO switch motors authorized last month.

Extensive discussion was held about use of the HO groups.io e-mail system. We do not have a viable operating system because we do not know how to change the group owner. Bob Witwer has volunteered to talk to Milo (N groups.io) and see if we can find out how to get the HO system operating.

6. Next meeting March 15th at 1 pm.