

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of March 02, 2026

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President John Spach

Note: This meeting was held on Zoom only

Board members in attendance by Zoom were Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Schaefer O'Neill, George Sawyer, John Spach, and Bob Witwer.

2. Recognition of Additional Members Attending on Zoom

Additional members attending on Zoom were Wayne Aiken, Jeff Cole, Cat Attack, Alex Griswold, Tom Magnani, Rich Marrello, Phil Michaud, Len Nieman, Milo Poulin, Greg Rehe, Gene Sing, Ben Wallace, and Ron Wertenberg.

No guests attended the meeting tonight.

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

John Spach 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.

Schaefer O'Neill joined the meeting late and answered questions about the Treasurer's report.

5. Communications with the Club

Ken Howard reported that we have received another donation of various items from Gene Sing.

Phil Michaud reported that he has received the document from the Town of Cary that needs to be signed and returned (electronically) to the Town. This will give us permission to participate in the train show the weekend of March 21st. It was agreed that Phil can sign this form on behalf of the Club.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Tom Garren reported that we have two new applications for membership and two new RFI's that look promising. There are also two more applications that have been somewhat inactive. Taken together, we may have as many as six new members over the next few months.

b. Ways and Means

John Spach noted that the Budget committee of Ways and Means needs to schedule a meeting in March to review the current budget and set up a proposed budget for next year.

c. House

Ken Howard asked if there is any progress on getting hot water in the building. Schaefer O'Neill stated that his contractor should be able to inspect the building and give us an estimate around the end of the week.

d. Engineering

N Scale – Phil Michaud reported that work continues on the permanent layout including a new loop of track. Milo Poulin verified that the main trackwork is done. Remaining items of track include sidings and the industrial area on the back end of the layout. Scenery will be next - beginning with ballast.

T-TRAK will be in the Cary show the weekend of the 21st of March. Phil will also have his Z scale layout at this show.

Bob Witwer noted that Bernie Dawson will be out of a while due to having an operation on his foot.

HO – Ken Howard reported work has resumed on Mt. Witwer.

- Greg Rehe has been installing foam support on the mountain in the area around the coal mine.
- Ken has been installing screen wire and plaster on the back side of the mountain.
- Chuck Larnerd continues to work on the wiring.
- The long siding on Main 1 has been completed.
- One track repair has been identified on Main 1 near the air conditioner.
- Len Neiman submitted a plan to improve access to the yard on Module 9. This plan has been approved and the changes will be worked into the schedule.
- There has also been additional scenery work done on Module 4.

On Sunday March 1st a demonstration was conducted to prove this is a DCC layout. Five trains were simultaneously run for approximately an hour on Main 1 with no problems. Participants included Tom Garren, John Spach, Ken Howard, Phil Michaud, and Mike Hinman.

S gauge – Nothing to report.

O gauge – George Sawyer reported that he is making some needed repairs. He is looking for a drive belt to power the merry-go-round in the carnival.

G scale – Nothing to report.

e. Program - Nothing to report.

f. Social - Nothing to report.

7. Old Business

a. Spring Show

Bob Witwer gave the report for the Spring show

- We currently have 255 tables sold for the show. He is still hoping for a total of 350 tables to be sold for the Spring show.
- Bob also stated that Bernie Dawson can still do phone work for staffing, even though he will be recuperating from surgery.
- Bob has determined the block of tables sold to TCA for resale is costing us money.
- John Spach wonders if the table rate should increase.
- Bob attended the show in New Bern and talked to one of their members. They are holding their ticket prices rather than increasing for now.
- Bob believes the Spring show will be profitable but is not sure how much.
- Many of the vendors at the New Bern show are planning on coming to our Fall show.
- George Sawyer commented that the Spring show this year will be a learning experience.
- John Spach reminded us that when we did the first Spring show we were not sure we would make a profit. The show has grown steadily since then.
- Schaefer O'Neill noted that the Lego layout at New Bern was spectacular. He believes we should offer them more space at our shows.
- Phil Michaud noted that kids can see the Lego layout better than Sipping and Switching.
- A new ticket format is being adopted that will allow us to advertise our Club and our Fall show.
- Bob needs three volunteers to man the setup areas on Friday before the Spring show.
- Tom Garren reported that he has added the Craftsman's Showcase flyer and registration forms to the Club website. John Spach has also added them to our Facebook page.
- Schaefer O'Neill will create additional copies of the Craftsman Showcase flyer/registration form.
- Ken Howard stated that we need a couple of boxes of business cards. Greg Rehe will pursue this.

b. Open House

John Spach reminded everyone of the Open House on May 2nd. We will need the usual refreshments and volunteers to greet our visitors. Phil Michaud and John Mezera will lead this effort.

8. New Business

a. Nominating Committee

John Spach charged the Nominating committee to begin their work to identify a slate of officers and Board members for consideration in the May election. The Nominating committee is made up of the At Large Board members.

b. PBS Show

Tom Magnani shared that a PBS Great Trains show will air on Tuesday night this week.

9. Adjournment

The public portion of the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.