

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the HO Committee Meeting of April 19, 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 Wayne Aiken, Randy Foulke, Tom Garren, Mike Hinman, Ken Howard, Chuck Larnerd, Don McPherson, and Len Nieman.

3. Review and Discussion of Approved Projects

Chuck Larnerd presented an update of track and electrical approved work that is completed or ongoing.

- 1) All track bus wiring (Mains 1-4, Extension, and Reversing Loop (Wyes)) is complete.
- 2) DC bus wiring (+12V, -12V, +5V, +3V, GND) is complete.
- 3) Main one improvement (eliminate switches on south side, and install roadbed) is complete (still needs ballast in places).
- 4) Main one siding (extend siding, install roadbed, Isolate electric power with a control switch for staging) is complete (still needs ballast in places).
- 5) Main one staging yard under the mountain is under way (inner most siding is complete).

Ken Howard led a discussion of the currently approved projects for the HO layout to review status and set the current priorities. With Open House coming on May 2, 2026, a number of projects to spruce up the layout are under way.

- Richard Calfee is painting the exposed foam and ballasting the new track work on Main 1.
- Len Nieman is finishing the travelling crane and unloading facility on Module 4.
- John Spach is working on replacement of paper buildings on Module 2 and replacing them with a block of buildings.
- Chuck Larnerd is racing to complete wiring so that all mains and the mountain extension will be functional for the Open House.
- Gregg Rehe is working on all facets of Mt. Witwer short of vegetation.
- Ken Howard and others are restoring damaged scenery in multiple locations.

Additional discussions of approved projects:

- Main 2 improvements to the south wye are nearly complete with reconfiguration to make Main 2 the straight route on all turnouts.
- Southern industrial area has not begun.
- Access to the center staging yard from Main 4 has not begun.

- Len Nieman's modification of Module 9 yard plans has been approved. The bank building will be shortened, and a second working track will be installed. Main 4 will be moved closer to the edge of the module.
- Removal of East and West main switches between Mains 1 and 3 was discussed. It was decided to simply replace the switches with track laid on the substrate at this time rather than work on installation of cork roadbed.

#### 4. Discussions of Upcoming or Future Projects

- More input from members is needed for design of the area between Mains 1 and 2 where the two-stall roundhouse formerly stood. To date, only two plans and two written suggestions have been received for: fruit and juice plant, grain elevator, team track and maintenance of way facility, and steam engine servicing facility.
- Discussions were held about establishing a policy for ballasting track. It was agreed that main lines should be ballasted in medium gray colors. Specialty areas such as yards, coal mine, spur lines, etc. can vary, but the committee should approve the choice.
- The control panels for switches on the extension were displayed and discussed at some length. Paul is preparing the panels and Arduinos for installation. It was agreed that there would be two panels on the east and west sides of the layout so that operators would not have to walk around the layout to throw certain switches. In addition, the double wyes on the reversing loop will be wired so that two switches will be thrown simultaneously to guaranteed train passage through the reversing loop.
- At the present time, the group decided that Main 4 and its associated yards should remain on the substrate of the modules. Elevation on cork roadbed for other mains will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.