

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of May 04, 2026

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board

The meeting was called to order at 6:56 pm by President John Spach

Note: This meeting was held on Zoom only

Board members in attendance by Zoom were Richard Calfee, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, George Sawyer, John Spach, and Bob Witwer.

2. Recognition of Additional Members Attending on Zoom

Additional members attending on Zoom were Cat Attack, Scott Hall, Jack McDonald, Phil Michaud, Len Nieman, and Greg Rehe.

One guest also attended. Briggs Pratt has applied for Senior membership. This is his second meeting.

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 Richard Calfee and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report

John Spach gave the Treasurer's report in place of Schaefer O'Neill: very little change since last month. We are in good shape. Ken Howard made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

Richard Calfee reported having taken three messages but has not yet responded to them.

Ken Howard reported he had no new communications to report.

Bob Witwer has spoken to a Todd Grove. His dad's three-rail 15'x28' layout is available. It has mostly Lionel and MTH equipment. If he decides to donate, he will get back with us.

John Spach noted that there have been many positive comments on Facebook about our Open House.

Ken Howard noted that the written comments about the Open House in the guest book were all positive.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

Tom Garren reported that we have two applications for membership. Briggs Pratt has applied for Senior membership. Tonight is his second meeting. Per Briggs, he models in

HO and likes Norfolk Southern. Erik Leszuynski has applied for Associate membership. He has credit for attending one meeting so far. If he attends the upcoming Membership meeting, we can vote on two new members on May 28th.

b. Ways and Means

Nothing to report.

c. House

Ken Howard stated that we need to repair the bench in front of the Clubhouse. The bench leans both left and right when you sit on it. The fix should involve adding washers to the carriage bolts that affix the wood to the frames and tightening the bolts. This should be done once the wood has been removed and painted. This work will make the bench safer and much better looking. No schedule was established to do this work.

d. Engineering

N Scale – Phil Michaud reported that little has changed in the last couple of weeks on the permanent N scale layout. The group is readying the T-TRAK modules for the Spring show where they will join up with the North Raleigh group's modules.

Phil has requested stations and drapes to surround the layout at the show.

HO Scale – Ken Howard reported the layout has been spruced up quite a bit for the recent Open House.

- Len Nieman installed a loading dock on Module 4.
- Several trees have been reinstalled with glue on the layout.
- Greg Rehe got Mt. Witwer looking good for the event.

Work will continue on Mt. Witwer with emphasis on the logging camp.

Ken is still looking for more ideas on how to develop the area where the engine house was once located. This is in the “viewing area”.

S gauge – John Spach reported he was not aware of any problems with the S layout during the Open House. Tom Garren confirmed that the layout ran beautifully during the event.

O gauge – George Sawyer requested help from a nimble person who can get under the layout and hook the new MTH remote into the existing MTH control base located there.

George also stated that the layout ran well for the Open House.

G scale – Ken Howard stated that the G scale layout has some areas where the train on the outside loop runs slowly. John Spach noted this has been identified as a pickup

problem. The layout did run reasonably well at the Open House and is quieter than it used to be.

Program – Tom Garren relayed a message from Randy Foulke stating that he has volunteers for programs through October.

7. Old Business

a. Spring Show

Bob Witwer gave the report for the Spring show

- Bob reported that we have sold 361 tables to some 56 vendors.
- We have eleven layouts coming to the show.
 - The layout for the North Raleigh T-TRAK layout is still being finalized.
 - Sipping and Switching and Rick Allen will have 20,000 square feet of floor space in the back of the building.
- Bob has to turn in our final order for everything to the Fairgrounds this week.
 - The guard has been confirmed.
 - The concessions have been confirmed.
- A small profit is estimated for the Spring show.
- Bernie Dawson will continue to call members to recruit staff for the show including porters for Friday and Sunday afternoons.
- Bernie Dawson will also be phoning Tom Garren to discuss staffing for the ticket table.
- Train Talks will be held once again at the show.
 - Scott Hall is hoping for more participation this time around.

8. New Business

a. House Items

Tom Garren presented a list of House items from Schaefer O'Neill. These items are the result of a conversation with our cleaning lady. They include:

- Replace the vanity in the first bathroom, and install the hot water tank therein, along with a taller or additional faucet that will accommodate filling a mop bucket so the floors can be kept cleaner.
- Additionally, that bathroom needs new floor tile and wax ring for the toilet.
- It is believed that the yellow ladder damages the flooring, and he asked if it can live elsewhere or be fixed to not cut into the flooring.
- As for the BIG cabinet, it appears rusted along the base and may require consideration when the flooring is replaced.

Schaefer asked for direction from the Board as he hopes to meet with a maintenance guy on Tuesday.

John Spach requested that Schaefer get a detailed estimate for the repairs, then meet with our landlord to see if he will share in any of the expense. Once this has been determined, Schaefer should report back to the rest of the Board.

b. Narrow Gauge Convention

Tom Garren noted that Curtis Brookshire attended Open House and talked to him about the 27th Annual Narrow Gauge Convention. This event will take place September 1-5, 2027 at the Metro Center in Hickory, NC.

They are looking for anyone willing to have a layout open house in conjunction with this event, even this far away from Hickory. This does not have to be a narrow gauge layout to participate.

Anyone interested in having their layout open for the convention should contact: Johnny Graybeal at (828) 719-8056 or johnnyg@boone.net

9. Adjournment

Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by George Sawyer and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.