

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of June 01, 2026**

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Ken Howard.

Note: This meeting was held on Zoom only

Board members in attendance by Zoom were Jake Forbes, Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Schaefer O'Neill, Greg Rehe, and Bob Witwer.

2. Recognition of Additional Members Attending on Zoom

Additional members attending on Zoom were Wayne Aiken, Cat Attack, Scott Hall, Ted Kunstling, Tom Magnani, Adam McDonald, Len Nieman, George Sawyer, John Spach, and Robert Wall.

No guests attended this meeting.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Schaefer O'Neill made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as submitted. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report. It was a good month because of the show, and several members already paying their dues.

Schaefer mentioned a few members that will not renew their membership this fiscal year.

Ken Howard mentioned a meeting with Edward Jones on either June 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> for he and Schaefer.

Ken also mentioned a letter from State Farm about automatic renewal in August.

Bob Witwer made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.

5. Communications with the Club

Ken Howard noted that we received several donations at the show.

We have also received several other donations of O gauge, HO, and magazines.

John Spach will pick up a donation in Fuquay when the weather cools down a bit and the donor can get the equipment out of his attic.

Jake Forbes reported he sent a prospective donation to Ken Howard.

## 6. Committee Reports

### a. Membership

Ken Howard noted that dues are now payable. Several members have already done so, and the others are due by the end of June.

Tom Garren reported that we now have 106 members. We will see how many we retain as we go through dues season. At this time, we have no active applications for membership.

Schaefer O'Neill asked about our dues policy for this year. When do we send out reminders to members who have not paid their dues? John Spach clarified that anyone not paying their dues in June will get a reminder, and they will have until the end of July to pay their dues. After that, it sometimes becomes an activity of chasing a few individuals.

Schaefer also stated that dues can be paid using Zelle to the address of:

[NeuseRiverValleyMRC@gmail.com](mailto:NeuseRiverValleyMRC@gmail.com)

Wayne Aiken reported that Ted Salamone may be away for a while with a family health concern.

Ken Howard reported that Clif Kelly has resigned as Membership Chair. He will stay on until a replacement is named. If anyone has a suggestion for a replacement for Clif, please let Ken know.

Wayne Aiken mentioned that someone sent out a scam email pretending to be Schaefer asking for a vendor payment to be made by Zelle. Tom Garren stated that he had gotten the email too and forwarded this information to Schaefer.

### b. Ways and Means

Ken Howard noted that it is time for Ways and Means to conduct an audit on the books for the last fiscal year. Schaefer O'Neill stated that he should be ready around the third week of June.

### c. House

Ken Howard stated that he is reworking the Club org chart. He will be in touch with folks soon about filling positions on the chart.

Library – Wayne Aiken stated that he is working on shelf space to hold all the new additions to the Library. He believes he will have all the new additions on shelves soon.

Wayne verified that he had purchased several books lately for the Library. Several Board members stated that Wayne should be reimbursed for Library purchases.

Bob Witwer made a motion to reimburse Wayne for the \$330.00 recently spent on books. The motion was seconded by Jake Forbes and passed unanimously.

Schaefer O'Neill stated that the renovation of the rest rooms and the installation of the water heater should begin tomorrow (Tuesday). Wayne Aiken will put a sign on the door of the main rest room stating it is out of service until further notice.

Ken Howard stated that Mike Hinman has repaired the bench that sits in front of the building. It has been tightened up and is now safe to sit on.

Mike is also checking out the shelving in the Board storage room to determine how to anchor the shelves to the walls and make for a safer situation.

d. Engineering

N Scale – Nothing to report.

HO – Ken Howard reported that the reversing loop is fully operational with one switch panel. A second panel is being built for the other side of the layout. Do not throw the turnouts manually, please use the switch panel.

John Spach stated that urban renewal will begin by the end of the month. Along with this work will be the installation of additional Plexiglas.

Len Neiman will start work on the revisions to the Main 4 yard next week.

Scenic work continues on the layout.

S gauge – Nothing to report.

O gauge – George Sawyer reported there is nothing new to report on the layout. He is spending his time processing donations.

G scale – Ken Howard reported that Darrell Dennis has picked up his G scale equipment. We currently have a trolley on the layout, and we also have a donated G scale set that has not yet been evaluated.

Program Committee

Tom Garren reported for Randy Foulke that programs are scheduled through September. If you are interested in doing a program, please contact Randy to get on the schedule.

7. Old Business

a. Spring Show

Bob Witwer gave the report for the Spring show. Most important, the Club made a profit on the show. A closeout meeting on the show was held last Saturday. Bob has put out the minutes to the committee members with several suggestions for changes to be considered for future shows.

Bob thanked everyone who participated and helped make the show a success. It is now time to start working on the Fall show.

b. Apparel

Ken Howard reported that Randy did get an order of hats and shirts in from our vendor. Some items were distributed at the show. All other items have been consolidated into one inventory of apparel. If you have an order in for a shirt or hat please check with Randy.

A box of Conrail hats was donated to the Club by the folks from Locomotive Logos. They are in the free area, please help yourself if you are interested.

Schaefer O'Neill expressed concern about the ordering process. The current process seems to have room for improvement.

We have one member that is upset because his shirt did not seem to make the order. Schaefer verified that the member has paid for a shirt on March 9<sup>th</sup> and has not yet received it. Bob Witwer stated that we need to make this situation right with the member.

Ken Howard added that we were not able to get up with our vendor for quite a while until right before the show.

Ken also stated that he has not seen the new price structure written out. This needs to be acquired and posted before we take any more orders.

Ken stated that we need to streamline the process, and he will follow up on it.

8. New Business

a. Belt Sander

Len Nieman has donated a new belt sander to the Club. It has been installed in the Shop and is ready to use. The old sander will be donated to Habitat Restore.

b. New Position

Ken Howard announced that he wants to create a new Board Emeritus position to be filled by John Spach. This position will be an adjunct member of the Board serving in an advisory capacity with no voting privileges. After some discussion it was decided that Ken could do this without requiring a motion and vote of the Board.

c. Open House

It was noted that an Open House is planned for Saturday October 17<sup>th</sup>. Flyers have been created for the event. They should be distributed and posted on a date closer to the event.

d. Stone Ridge Senior Visit

Ken Howard announced that on Wednesday June 24<sup>th</sup> we will have a visit from residents at Stone Ridge in Cary. We will need a person to operate each layout. We will also have light refreshments. Anyone interested in helping please contact Ken. The time is from 10:00 – 12:00. It was suggested to move the starting time back to 10:30 to give members time to travel from our weekly breakfast to the Club.

e. Storage

Bob Witwer requested a drawer in one of the file cabinets in the rear storage room to store show records. John Spach stated that one drawer is available now.

Additional discussion identified the need for us to investigate the retention requirements of records for a 501 (c)-(3). Once this information is known, the material already in the file cabinets can be sorted, retained, or disposed as needed.

9. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.