

# **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

## **Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of August 03, 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 Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Schaefer O'Neill, and Bob Witwer.

### **2. Recognition of Additional Members Attending on Zoom**

Additional members attending on Zoom were Wayne Aiken, Bernie Dawson, Cat Attack, Randy Foulke, Cass Gajewski, Scott Hall, Mike Hinman, John Mezera, Len Nieman, George Sawyer, Gene Sing, John Spach, and Ben Wallace.

No guests attended this 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 Schaefer O'Neill and passed unanimously.

### **4. Treasurers Report**

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

Ken Howard noted that he has not yet received his credit card from Truist. Schaefer will follow up with the bank on this matter tomorrow.

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**

Randy Foulke stated that John Page with North Raleigh has invited the NRV T-TRAK layout to participate in the Cary Train Show on March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 2027. It will once again be located in the Herb Young Center.

Bernie Dawson announced that he was out of rehab and now at his sister's house as his recovery continues.

Ken Howard noted that he has been in communication with Ann Bauchy with Carol Woods retirement home in Chapel Hill. She requested we bring a layout of some type to their facility in September or October. This information will be passed on to Alan Bradley to line up a time when the T-TRAK layout can be taken to Carol Woods.

Tom Garren reported that Clif Kelly is still recovering at home. The swelling and redness is going down in his foot. So he is getting better but still has a ways to go to be well.

Schaefer O'Neill stated he had a phone call from Doc Lou.

## 6. Committee Reports

### a. Membership

George Sawyer reported that he has drafted a final notice dues letter that will be sent out this week to those members that have not yet paid their dues. A few suggestions were made for small changes to be made before the letter is sent out.

Per the By Laws, Honorary Memberships are to be evaluated each year. We currently have three honorary members that we have not seen in several years. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that no Honorary Memberships be extended at this time.

Members are encouraged to bring to the Board for future honorary members.

### b. Ways and Means

Ken Howard noted that the audit of the books for the last fiscal year is still pending. Schaefer O'Neill stated that he is working on the information needed for the audit.

Ken Howard also noted that we need to evaluate how we did on last year's budget and come up with a proposed budget for this year.

### c. House

Ken Howard noted that we have very hot water at the Club. Additionally, it appears that both faucets are connected backwards. Also, there still needs to be a riser of some type installed so that the floor drain is flush with the floor. Schaefer O'Neill stated he will have the contractor come back and turn down the temperature of the water, swap the connections around in both rest rooms, and look into the drain riser.

Ken Howard noted that we had our annual fire extinguisher inspection.

John Spach noted that we still have instances of food left in trash cans.

Questions remain about the light on the side of the building working. It is suspected that the problem may just be a light bulb. Mike Hinman will check out.

It was also pointed out that the ceiling fan in the Crew Lounge is supposed to run all the time. Someone has turned it off. This will be investigated, and the fan will be set to run again.

Tom Garren noted that someone needs to run a weed eater around the outside of the building to knock down the tall weeds. John Spach suggested this might be done on Wednesday.

Wayne Aiken reported that he has completed checking in all of the big book donations. Some books still need to be placed on the shelves.

Tom Garren noted that there is an inconsistency in the code for Southern Railway in the library spreadsheet. Wayne stated that he will fix this problem.

It was asked if we could put the Library spreadsheet on the website. This is a future endeavor.

d. Engineering

N Scale – Bernie Dawson. Nothing to report on either the permanent layout or the T-TRAK layout.

HO – Ken Howard reported that we have a donated 4x8 layout that is very nice, well built, and DCC equipped that we would like to sell. Club members will have first chance to buy the layout. There is a picture of the layout on the bulletin board at the entrance to HO and N scale layouts room. If a Club member does not buy it, the layout will be taken to the Fall show and sold there. The requested price is \$250.00.

Len Nieman reported that Chuck Larnerd and Greg Rehe have been working on the extension. Len has installed the single slip switches for the long yard. One has been installed and it works fine.

S gauge – Nothing to report.

O gauge - Nothing to report.

G scale – Ken Howard reported that we need to replace the aluminum track on the G scale layout with brass track to hopefully correct the issues we have. We need an estimated 135 feet of brass track for the project. We have some people looking for used track, if possible, to save us some money. Track seems to run between \$5.00 and \$10.00 per foot.

Ken made a motion to allocate \$500.00 for the acquisition of brass G scale track. This will be used to replace the bad track on one loop to prove that this change fixes the problem. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously.

e. Program Committee

Randy Foulke reported that he now has programs lined up through January of 2027.

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke gave a report on the special event to be held at the NC Transportation Museum in Spencer on August 28<sup>th</sup> -30<sup>th</sup>. This event will showcase many locomotives from all over the country that have been painted specifically for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America. One day tickets are \$44.00 plus a \$4.50 handling fee. There are no discounts.

Look for more information in an upcoming email to the membership. If you are interested in going, get your tickets separately and work with Randy to form carpools.

This will be a unique opportunity to see these locomotives in one location.

## 7. Old Business

### a. Building Committee

Ken Howard reported we are still pursuing leads for a new building. The latest lead we were given turned out to be a building that recently sold for \$4,000,000.00. Way out of our price range.

### b. Open House

Ken Howard reminded everyone that we have an Open House coming up on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Look for more information to come out about this event.

### c. Fall Show

Bob Witwer reported that the floor plan is almost set for the Fall show. Once he secures the floor space needs for all the layouts, he can finalize the floor plan with the vendor tables.

The vendor letters have been sent out, and we have a fairly good response.

Bob needs a materials list from Scott Hall for the soldering school.

John Spach will head up the Education Station (formerly Train Talks). Clinics will be twenty minutes each. Sixteen clinics are needed to fill the schedule. Please let John know if you would like to present a clinic.

Ken Howard noted that we have the signup sheets for the show at the Club. Please sign up to help make the show a success.

Bob Witwer also noted that we need someone to head up the Craftsman Showcase. We also need to emphasize this part of the show more.

The next Show committee meeting will be held Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

### d. Club Organization

Ken Howard noted that we still need a webmaster for the Club's website.

Ken also announced that Gary Dabbagh has volunteered to take over Club attire.

We need volunteers to help Phil Michaud the Building committee.

We are also looking for NRV papers and files to have a complete set of official business documents. Members may be asked to see if they have any historical documents to aid in this effort. It is hoped to complete this effort by this Fall.

e. Club House Improvements

Mike Hinman reminded us to contact Jim Schaefer next door about the possibility of sharing costs for landscaping and trash services. Ken Howard will follow up on these items.

8. New Business

a. Conflict of Interest Policy

Ken Howard stated that he is working to develop a Conflict of Interest Policy for the Board members that is in compliance with the IRS Form 990.

b. O Scale Layout Donation

Before he died, Joe Scales donated his layout to the NRV. Ken Howard reported that he, John Spach, and Tom and Daphne Garren traveled to Ridgeway, VA to scout out the layout last Friday. The layout was measured, photographed, and sketched. An immediate donation was picked up of scenic supplies, cabinets, and shelving. We also picked up a few cars along with some die-cast automobiles and trucks.

The big question is the layout itself. How to best retrieve it. Do we salvage only part of it, and help Becky scrap the rest, or do we try to salvage all of the layout. Our first thoughts are to take small sections of the layout that can be reused at a point in the future when we have space to create a two rail O scale layout. In the meantime, we must find a place to store whatever we salvage.

Schaefer O'Neill stated that he has over 400 square feet available for storing the layout until we can reassemble it. He would like to know how long we anticipate needing the storage space. He also stated that there could be additional space available if needed.

Ken Howard stated that we could start with Greensboro and Browns Summit and the track from the lower level and the interchange tracks. A consensus of the Board is needed to proceed. Bob Witwer is in favor of salvaging everything we can. John Spach noted that the structures and the rolling stock are for sale at very reasonable prices. We should determine what we would like to buy and let Club members and others know what is for sale. Ken also noted a further question for the Board is whether we want to buy some of the remaining engines for our future layout. The thinking is to have two small freight trains with engines as a starting point.

A large effort will be required to retrieve the layout and get it to Raleigh.

Questions were asked as to how Becky would like to proceed to get the equipment sold. John Spach wondered if she could sell at Back Shop sales at one of our shows.

Ken summarized the discussion by saying that we are in agreement to proceed with this endeavor and continue to investigate our options.

Tom Garren reminded everyone that the layout is located approximately 100 miles away from Raleigh. We will need some younger members to help with this project.

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 8:26 pm.