

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of September 14, 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 Rick Calfee, 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 Gary Dabbagh, Mike Hinman, George List, John Mezera, Phil Michaud, Len Nieman, Milo Poulin, George Sawyer, John Spach, and Robert Wall.

One friend, Ted Salamone, 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 Jake Forbes and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

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

5. Communications with the Club

Rick Calfee stated that he had returned calls from three messages left on the phone. He has not yet been able to contact any of these people.

Jake Forbes talked to someone who will bring an N scale donation to the Fall show. The donation should be left with either Bob Witwer or someone at the front table.

George List is still following up with the person in South Carolina about the possibility of an S gauge donation.

Ken Howard reported that we have received an O gauge and an HO scale donation over the weekend.

Bob Witwer noted that we have received a request to consider donating to an event for the Dravet Syndrome Foundation. After a lengthy discussion it was decided not to give a donation from the Club but make the members aware so they can donate if they like.

6. Committee Reports

a. Membership

George Sawyer reported that we have 88 members. There are three from whom we have not yet received payment for their current dues. We also have two active applications.

b. Ways and Means

The Ways and Means committee is still awaiting last year's books so they can conduct their audit.

c. House

Ken Howard noted that the water heater is now working correctly. The remaining item in the rest room renovation is raising the floor drain so that it is flush with the floor.

It was also noted that we have seen some bugs in the building. Ken Howard will talk about this with our landlord to arrange an exterminator visit.

d. Engineering

N Scale – Milo Poulin reported that work is underway on three bridges and some water features on the permanent layout. Paving is underway in the intermodal area.

HO – Greg Rehe reported that we have performed a lot of track work over the last eight months. Now we need to concentrate on scenery for the Open House. We have several people working on various projects on the layout.

S Gauge – George List reported that the S gauge layout area has received a cleanup in preparation for the Open House. He also noted that more shelf space is needed to display more equipment that is currently stored under the layout. Upcoming projects will be to work on lighting in the buildings on the layout. Also, some powered accessories will be prepped for sale.

O Gauge – George Sawyer reported that all four tracks are running and ready for the Open House. He is also spending time getting several items ready for sale at the Fall show.

G Scale – We have acquired some brass track for the G scale layout. This track needs to be cleaned before it can be installed. This is a large task and it was recognized that it will not be accomplished prior to the October 17th Open House.

Jake Forbes volunteered to manage the HO scale layout for the Open House.

e. Program Committee

No updates on upcoming programs.

f. Social Committee

Randy Foulke requested that members begin to think about our annual dinner event.

7. Old Business

a. Open House

Phil Michaud and John Mezera will co-chair the October 17th Open House.

Phil noted that we need to make a better effort to have our visitors sign the Guest Book. This may be facilitated by moving the Guest Book near the front door.

We will need Club members to volunteer, to bring refreshments to the event, and to attend the Open House and greet our guests.

One suggestion was to reserve one track on the HO layout for a train that can be run by our guests.

It was also suggested to display the layout we have for sale in the Crew Lounge during the event. This could also be a place to let our guests run a train.

b. Fall Show

Bob Witwer reported that we will have between 420 – 440 tables at the Fall Show. We have lost approximately 80 vendor tables to Train Fest in Milwaukee.

We will have seventeen layouts, including two new ones.

We need to drive attendance at the show. Use social media extensively. We need an additional 250-300 attendees to make up for the lost vendor revenue.

Bob noted that we need a bigger sign for Education Station.

c. Webmaster

We still need a permanent webmaster.

Bob Witwer suggested that we should consider paying someone to provide this service.

George Sawyer suggested that we talk to Go Daddy.

It was also suggested that we look for help at the Community College. Ken Howard will check into this.

d. Building Committee

Phil Michaud reported that he is working on several building leads. He is meeting with officials in Fuquay-Varina, Apex, and Garner. Meetings with Holly Springs will be next.

Work needs to be done on our budget to better know what expense we are capable of sustaining.

e. Apparel

Gary Dabbagh gave a report on Club apparel.

We have a stock of caps.

We have a selection of polo shirts in both maroon and black. We need some large shirts and a few medium shirts.

The price has gone up a dollar on the shirts.

It was suggested to put an order together in October for delivery at the Fall show.

Ken Howard suggested that we build a small inventory for stock.

Gary will bring this discussion to the Membership meeting.

f. Safety

Ken Howard led a discussion about Club safety. We have had some members take falls in the Clubhouse.

We must keep aisleways open. Pick up items that are found on the floor.

If you use one of the roller stools to get under or inside the layout, please be sure to return it to the outer edge of the layout for the next person to use.

Len Nieman noted that we often have high chairs in the aisle on the North side of the HO layout. These chairs/stools should be on the South side of the layout.

Greg Rehe suggested we look at stools and safety in general on Wednesday.

8. New Business

a. October Board Meeting

Ken Howard noted that due to scheduling conflicts with some Board members, the October Board meeting will be rescheduled to October 12th.

9. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

