

Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club

Minutes of the Board of Governors' Meeting of October 12, 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, 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, Gary Dabbagh, Randy Foulke, Scott Hall, Mike Hinman, George List, Phil Michaud, George Sawyer, John Spach, and Robert Wall.

There were no guests in attendance.

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 Rick Calfee and passed unanimously.

4. Treasurers Report -

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

We have received the payment for table rentals at the Fall show from most vendors.

Randy Foulke asked if an invoice from June for Mohawk Designs has been paid. Bob Witwer will follow up with Dal Cook for more information about this invoice.

Gary Dabbagh asked a question about apparel billing.

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

5. Communications with the Club

Rick Calfee stated that all messages have been followed up by the proper people and there are no new messages.

Ken Howard reported that we have received several donations (both pickups) and drop offs recently.

Bob Witwer picked up a donation of HO and O gauge equipment from the Four Oaks area. We also got a large book donation last Saturday, with another donation coming from the same person next weekend.

Wayne Aiken stated that we received three boxes of books and some magazines from Gene Sing.

Wayne also picked up an extensive collection of Model Railroaders from James Smith in North Raleigh.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Membership – George Sawyer reported that we currently have 89 members, all of whom have paid their dues. We also have two active applications for membership.

Ken Howard reminded everyone that the Open House is a great opportunity to recruit new members. Work with our guests.

It was decided to table any nominations for Honorary Memberships until after the show.

- b. Ways and Means – Schaefer O'Neill is still working to get our records in Quick Books. He did not have a target date for when the records for last FY will be ready to be audited.
- c. House – Mike Hinman reported we have not had any in person encounters with bugs. He still suggest we have an exterminator come by to be safe. Ken Howard requested that we do this after the weather turns cold.

George Sawyer requested we put a small cone over the floor drain in the front bath room.

Tom Garren felt that this was more of a hazard than the existing dip of the floor drain.

Ken Howard wants the drain fixed before the Open House. A group will look at the problem on Wednesday.

Rick Calfee requested that someone help him regain access to our security cameras. John Spach volunteered to do this.

- d. Library – Wayne Aiken reported that in the recent donations of magazines we have received several issues of Southern Ties that have caught up our collection of recent issues. We also received several issues of Lines South.

Wayne is also completing the installation of the final shelf in the drink room. There is very little space left for additional shelving in the building.

- e. Engineering

N Scale – Phil Michaud reported that work continues on the permanent layout. Milo Poulin has built the concrete plant as well as platforms for locomotive servicing and another platform for containers. Phil and Milo are working on a new station that will go on the back side of the layout. Ed Bottum has been applying ballast to track where needed.

Phil noted that the N scale group is short on rolling stock and locomotives. Ken Howard asked if there is an inventory of the N scale equipment. No inventory exists at this time. It was being done by the late John Wallis. No work has been done since his passing. Schaefer O'Neill will see if he has an old inventory used for insurance purposes.

T-TRAK – Milo Poulin is building storage boxes for the modules to protect them in transit and storage. The layout will be at the Fall show.

In addition, Phil Michaud's Z scale layout will be displayed alongside the T-TRAK layout at the show.

A budget request from the N scale group is under development. It will be presented at a later date.

HO Scale – Ken Howard reported that the donated 4x8 layout has been sold to an interested member. One or two volunteers are needed to load out at 9:30 am Friday the 16th. Bob Witer, John Spach, and Ken Howard will help load the layout.

Ken also reported much work has been done on the HO layout. Buildings will be temporarily added for the Open House in both the industrial area and the logging camp.

Plexiglas has been added down the aisle where visitors view the layout.

All track work has been put on hold until after the Open House. All efforts now are to improve the look of the layout.

Jake Forbes is acting as the HO Dispatcher for the Open House. Contact him if you want to run a train during the event.

Nothing major will happen on the HO layout until after the show.

S gauge – George List reported that the S layout is stable. He has refurbished five steam engines. There is also a tub of rolling stock under the layout. This is as good as much of what is on display.

Cat Flynn is updating the S gauge inventory.

We have received a donation of eleven American Flyer accessories. George List is currently refurbishing them.

Ken Howard noted there are now two shelves of S for sale in the hallway.

O gauge – George Sawyer reported that he has fixed one donated engine with the help of Len Nieman. There are six of seven ZW transformers for sale at the show along with other smaller Lionel transformers. Additionally, there are a lot of other O gauge items ready for sale at the show.

G scale – Ken Howard reported that track has been received and is being cleaned before being installed on the layout. Thanks to Jim Smith who loaned the Club a battery powered G scale train for use at the Open House. George Sawyer bought batteries to help keep this train running during the event. The controller is behind the G scale power packs.

Program -

Randy Foulke reported that he has programs lined up through February 2027. The October program will be done by Jake Forbes, and the November program will be done by Ted Kunstling.

Social -

Randy Foulke was advised that the Club has no interest in returning to Golden Corral for our annual dinner. Anyone with a suggestion, please send to Randy. Bob Witwer suggested a catered dinner from Redneck BBQ Lab. More on this topic later.

7. Old Business

a. Building Committee

Phil Michaud is following up on leads with little success thus far. If you see a building that should be investigated, please share specifics with Phil.

Schaefer O'Neill advised that a building at even \$6.00 per square foot will still take considerable funds.

The search will continue as Phil expands the area to see what is available.

b. Open House

Our Fall Open House is coming up on October 17th.

Jake Forbes will dispatch operations on the HO layout.

Tom Garren stated that Alan Servas will bring a lectern to allow us to move the guest book at the front door. Ken Howard will add a column or two to the pages in the guest book to capture email addresses.

Members are requested to ask our guests to sign the guest book.

c. Fall Show

Bob Witwer shared the estimated costs of putting on the show. We need to sell considerable tickets and merchandise from the Club table to make a substantial profit. Otherwise, we will do some better than break even.

Schaefer O'Neill still needs to order the award ribbons for the show. He will do that this week.

The equipment for the soldering clinic has been ordered.

Staffing numbers are looking better. This is still an all hands on deck event. We need everyone to help.

d. Webmaster

Ken Howard reminded everyone that we are still looking for a webmaster.

e. Club apparel – Nothing to report.

8. New Business

There was no new business tonight.

9. Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 pm.