

## **Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club**

### **Minutes of the Membership Meeting of October 15, 2026**

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bob Witwer.

2. Roll Call of Members in Attendance

Members attending in person included Tom Garren, Ken Howard, Ted Kunstling, Don McPherson, Schaefer O'Neill, Briggs Pratt, Alan Servas, Jim Smith, Mike Wagner, and Bob Witwer.

Members attending by Zoom included Ed Bottum, Jerry Davis, Pete Donofrio, Jake Forbes, Ansel Gent, Mike Hinman, Chuck Larnerd, Paul Lebiezdinski, Tom Magnani, Collin Martinko, Len Nieman, Milo Poulin, George Sawyer, and Robert Wall.

3. Recognition of Guests in Attendance

We had one guest tonight. Jeff Freed who has applied for Youth membership. He was joined by his Dad, Andrew Freed.

4. Minutes of the Last Meeting

Bob Witwer made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Jim Smith and passed unanimously.

5. Treasurers Report

Schaefer O'Neill gave the Treasurer's report.

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

6. Show and Tell

Ted Kunstling shared an article from a 1966 Mohawk and Hudson Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society newsletter. The article introduced a new concept from the New York Central called Passenger Piggyback. This would put passengers in their automobiles on car carriers connected to the Twentieth Century Limited for the ten hour ride from New York to Chicago. Passengers could get out of their autos and walk on walkways to rest rooms at the ends of the car carriers. It was not clear if this service got much further than a proof of concept.

Another article shared by Ted was where several members of the NRHS chapter were allowed to ride on the top level of a three deck auto carrier as the car was sent over the hump in a yard. My, how times have changed.

7. Communications with the Club

Ken Howard reported that we have recently received a number of donations. This includes some O and HO equipment from Gene Sing delivered by Jim Smith. Also included in this donation were eighteen boxes of magazines plus some books. We also received a donation of books from another gentleman who promised to bring even more this weekend.

8. Committee Reports

a. Membership Committee

Tom Garren reported that we currently have 89 members.

We have two active applications for membership on file.

Tonight is the first meeting for Jeff Freed. He has applied for Youth membership. He models in HO and likes several regional railroads.

b. Ways and Means

The Ways and Means committee is still waiting on the financial records for the last FY. Once available the audit will be performed.

c. House

Ken Howard thanked Schaefer O'Neill for fixing the drain in the front rest room. The cleaning lady will come by tomorrow to get the Clubhouse ready for our Open House.

It was also noted that we do not have a bug infestation at this time. Once cold weather sets in, we may have to get an exterminator to pay us a visit.

d. Engineering

N Scale – Milo Poulin reported that he and Ed Bottum have been working on ballast on the permanent layout.

Milo is building cases with which to both store and transport the T-TRAK modules.

Ken Howard asked about the Burlington locos. No one had any information on these.

Ken also asked if Milo was aware of an N scale inventory. Such a document may be in the possession of Bernie Dawson. Milo was unaware of any such inventory but suggested that maybe Randy Foulke was working with John Wallis to create one, before John died.

HO – Chuck Larnerd reported there is moratorium on track work until after the Open House.

Plexiglas has been installed along the south side viewing area. More will be added later.

Chuck further requested experienced scenery modelers are needed to add scenery to the HO layout.

Chuck reminded everyone to check out the communications wall to learn what is going on with the HO layout. He also encouraged anyone interested in the HO layout to attend the HO Committee meetings on the second Sunday at Noon to both stay informed and help make decisions.

S Gauge – Ken Howard reported that George List has been getting the S group together and cleaning the layout, the shelves, and the items on the shelves. The layout is running very nicely. It will be all set for the Open House. An inventory update is also in progress.

O Gauge – George Sawyer reported that he has two other members lined up to help him at the Open House. The layout is ready to go for the event.

G Scale – Ken Howard reported that we have one train ready to run on the G scale layout. This is courtesy of Jim Smith who has loaned us a battery powered train to use for Open House. Thanks Jim.

Later on we will begin a project to replace G scale track.

- e. Program Committee – Randy Foulke reported that he has programs lined up through February 2027. Anyone interested in giving a program please contact Randy.
- f. Social Committee – Members are encouraged to get suggestions for the January dinner to Randy for consideration.
- g. Apparel – Nothing to report this month.

## 9. Old Business

### a. Open House

Ken Howard noted that a group of us are planning to eat breakfast Saturday at 8:00 am - then car pool to the Club for the Open House. This will save parking spaces for our guests.

Jake Forbes reminded everyone that if you want to run a train on the HO layout during the Open House please contact him to get on the schedule.

Tom Garren asked if anyone was bringing ice.

b. Building Committee

Ken Howard reported that Phil Michaud has made contact with several municipalities in the area including Fuquay-Varina, Holly Springs, Apex, and Cary with no luck. He will continue to work on this and expand the search area. If a member has any ideas or leads, please contact Phil Michaud.

c. Fall Show

Bob Witwer

reported that we will have 426 vendor tables at the Fall show.

The floor plan for the show has been finalized and sent to the Fairgrounds staff.

There are still four or five openings in the Education Station schedule.

The equipment needed for the soldering clinic has been ordered.

The sponsors have been secured.

The signs needed are either completed or in progress.

Efforts to staff the show are having decent results.

Mike Hinman will lead the effort to set up and get entrants registered for the Craftsman Showcase. We are still uncertain how many entries we will have at the Craftsman Showcase. Bob will prepare a note for Tom to send out to the membership about the Craftsman Showcase.

Schaefer O'Neill will pick up the pipe and drapes for both the Craftsman Showcase and the T-TRAK layout.

d. Webmaster

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

e. Club Apparel - Nothing to report.

10. New Business

a. Tom Magnani noted that Hydrocal is ceasing production in November.

b. Schaefer O'Neill reported that Just Trains is closing down at the end of December.

11. Program

Jake Forbes made a presentation about chasing Southern Railway Locomotive 4501 on a current excursion.

12. Adjournment

Tom Garren made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Bob Witwer and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.