Neuse River Valley Model Railroad Club
Board of Governors' Meeting of November 2, 2026

1. Call Meeting to Order and Roll Call of Board
   Note: This meeting was held on Zoom only.
   The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Ken Howard,

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

2. Recognition of Additional Members and Guests Attending on Zoom
   Additional members attending on Zoom were Wayne Aiken, Scott Hall, Mike Hinman, Phil Michaud, Len Nieman, Milo Poulin, George Sawyer, John Spach, and Robert Wall.

   We had two guests in attendance tonight: Rob Gale and Ben Nelson. This is their second 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.
   Ken Howard inquired as to the status of the books for the fiscal year. They should be made available sometime after the Fall show.
   Bob Witwer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Tom Garren and passed unanimously

5. Communications with the Club
   Ken Howard noted that we have had quite a few donations recently.

   George Sawyer picked up a donation of O Gauge equipment in Chapel Hill.

   We also had a donation of some books and some O gauge equipment last weekend.

   Ken Howard, Phil Michaud, and John Spach made a service call to Durham for the 4X8 layout for Ansel Gent. All is in good order.

   Ken also reported that a letter has come out from Don Tichy announcing that our Fall show will be the last train show done by the Tichy Train Group. They are still in business and will take orders by phone or from their website.

   Jake Forbes noted that we have received a hello on Facebook.

6. Committee Reports
   a. Membership
      George Sawyer reported that we currently have 89 members, all of whom have paid their dues. We also have five applications for membership at this time.

      Two applicants are in attendance tonight.
      Rob Gale is into OO scale British trains. He wants to obtain knowledge to help him build a layout. He plans on modeling a small branch line in HO scale. This is Rob's second meeting.

      Ben Nelson is into O gauge. He moved here from New Hampshire. His interest in model railroading rekindled about three years ago. This is Ben's second meeting.

   b. Ways and Means
      Schaefer O'Neill reported the books should be available for audit after the Fall show.

   c. House
      Ken Howard thanked Schaefer O'Neill for getting the floor drain shored up in the first rest room.

      Ken also noted that if you create a mess in the rest room, you should clean it up. This has not been the case in a few recent instances.

      Mike Hinman noted that we caught a raccoon on an outside security camera coming down from the roof of the building.

      Wayne Aiken noted that he has a trap if needed to catch a raccoon.

      It was also noted that we should put any chemicals back in storage after use and not leave them out on a counter where they might entice a child.

   d. Library
      Wayne Aiken reported that we received some really good books in a donation from Cindy Hatley. Two of the books were railroad photography books that were signed by the author. We also received some other nice books on North Eastern railroads.

   d. Engineering
      N Scale
      Ken Howard announced that Phil Michaud will become lead for main N scale layout.

      Phil reported that Milo Poulin has been doing some great work to improve the N scale layout. Ed Bottum and Phil Michaud have helped with ballasting the new track.

Milo Poulin stated that work will continue on the permanent layout. He will be adding two sanding towers soon. He has also updated and added some rolling stock from recent donations to the N scale layout.

The Board is still awaiting budgets from both the N scale permanent layout and the T-TRAK layout. Also, an equipment inventory for the N scale layouts needs completion. Decisions must be made on which existing locomotives should be kept by the N scale group.

T-TRAK
Milo Poulin is in the process of building cases for both storage and transit of the T-TRAK modules. He expects to have nine cases ready for the show.

Milo also stated that he needs a tub of items from under the HO layout and a frame for a sign from the storage room to be put on the truck to come to the show.

It was stated that Alan Bradley is buying tables for the T-TRAK layout to use first at the Fall show. Ken Howard stated that this expenditure must be approved by the Board. If the tables have not yet been purchased, the purchase must wait until Board approval is obtained.

Phil Michaud is looking for a tray that was part of a donation of N scale equipment.

HO Scale
Greg Rehe reported that the layout is running.

The track by the new industrial area isn't working well. John Spach is working to get this working well.

Greg Rehe is working on the mountain landform. This area is getting plastered and painted and getting ready for the addition of vegetation.

S gauge – Nothing to report.

O gauge
George Sawyer reported that he is ready for the show.

The Club has decided to keep the recently donated Dreyfus Hudson and its passenger cars for our O gauge layout.

The next task will be to install a new MTH wireless TIU under the O gauge layout. George is looking forward to getting some help for this project.

G scale
Replacing the track on the G scale layout is on hold for now.

We do need a volunteer to box up the battery powered train that Jim Smith loaned us for the recent Open House.

Program Committee
Ken Howard reported that Randy Foulke has programs lined up through April of next year.
The November program will be by Ted Kunstling.
The December program will be by Collin Martinko.
The January 2027 program will be by Alan Bradley.

Social Committee
If any member has a suggestion for where to hold our January dinner, please give this information to Randy Foulke or a Board member.

7. Old Business
   a. Building Committee
   Phil Michaud reported that he has heard back from CSX. They have a building in Bethel, which is near Greenville. Phil also checked with neighboring communities such as Cary, Garner, Fuquay-Varina, and Holly Springs to no avail. Members are encouraged to pass along any information you have on a potential building to Phil.

   A question was raised about the possibility of approaching the New Hope Valley folks. Jake Forbes, who volunteers there, stated that there isn't room for another building. He also stated there is no water or sewer there, so we would have to install a well and septic tank in addition to putting up a building.

   b. Open House
   Ken Howard reported that the October 17th Open House was a great success.
   Thirty-one Club members participated.
   Ninety-three people signed the guest book.
   Three applications were also received.
   We also made some money from sales and donations.
   We learned that most people heard about the event from Facebook or our website.

   c. Fall Show
   Bob Witwer stated that we are ready for the show.
   We have sixty-five people on the volunteer list.
   Members are requested to bring their old lanyards if they have them.

Everything is printed except the schedule for Education Station. John Spach is OK with printing the schedule as it stands now.
We need to find the ballot boxes for the layout voting and the scavenger hunt participants.
The pipe and drape barriers have been ordered for the Craftsman Showcase and the T-TRAK layout.
Badge stuffing will take place this Wednesday at Barry's breakfast meeting.

The dates for the 2027 shows are:
May 22-23, 2027.
November 6-7, 2027.

8. New Business
   a. Doc Lou is requesting help from any member to set up his point-to-point layout. If you can help, please contact him directly at 760-475-8466.

   b. George Sawyer requested a key for the Board storage room. This will allow him to perform his function as O gauge lead and manage donated items. The Board approved his request.

   c. Len Nieman has created a new bad order card that can be used by all scales, for all of our layouts. There are some samples on the table in the Crew Lounge. Please take a look and see what you think.

9. Adjournment
   A motion was made by Tom Garren to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jake Forbes and passed unanimously.
   The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.