

Meeting Minutes Winchester Chapter, NRHS

Meeting Date:	September 14, 2024
Meeting Location:	In the Fellowship Hall of the Calvary Covenant Brethren Church, Winchester, VA
Minutes Submitted by:	Kevin Horn, Chapter Secretary
Attendance	18 members and 4 guests

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Secretary Kevin Horn

President's Report:

In the absence of President Van Welton, Kevin Horn, acting as moderator pro tem, recognized visitors and new members of the Chapter. He informed those in attendance that officers Van Welton, President, and Jeff Summerlin, Vice President, were out of town unable to attend. The "President's Report" as presented by Kevin Horn noted that there had been a continuing influx of funds for the caboose from local entities such as Wal Mart and Bank of Clarke County at this time.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer, Carl Stephanus, reported that the current bank accounts consisting of the Bank of Clarke County checking account, a balance of \$14,668.58, and Truist Bank checking, \$7,641.04, which amounts now include two matured CDs of \$6,000 and \$5,642.64, respectfully, plus interest earned. The \$6,000 CD included the \$5,000 NRHS caboose grant. A motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented was made and passed with no objections.

The Treasurer reported that the chapter received \$1,111.10 in donations toward the caboose mostly from six members. The chapter also received four unrestricted donations totaling \$1,450, including \$200 from a member in memory of former member Doug Russell, \$250 and \$500 from two Walmarts and \$500 from the Bank of Clarke County (all three obtained by Vice President Jeff Summerlin in addition to another \$250 he obtained from another Walmart in June)

Treasurer, Carl Stephanus, also reported that the current chapter membership consists of 92 persons. Since the August 10, 2024 meeting six regular and five family members have been added, noting that most of the new members were in attendance at the chapter third annual railfan day on August 17 at Shenandoah Junction. Due to some donations for the recent railfan day the only expenditure was \$68.93 for food, etc.

Secretary's Report:

Kevin Horn reported that he had previously emailed on September 13 the minutes from the August 10, 2024 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes as presented that was seconded and approved.

Area Railroad News:

It was noted that some of the activities at the recent Harrisburg NRHS convention were sold out. The 2025 NRHS convention will be held in Toledo, Ohio.

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New Business

To save time and effort, members are encouraged to present new business to the Administrative Committee (Van, Jeff, Kevin and Carl) for their discussion prior to regular AC Monday meetings, before each monthly Saturday chapter meeting.

Shenandoah Junction Railfan Day

It was reported that the third annual railfan day at Shenandoah Junction held Saturday, August 17, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm was well attended. Many participants stayed well beyond the 1:00 pm closure of the chapter event. There was a memorial observance remembrance session in honor of former member James Cashell, sometimes referred to as "Mayor of Shenandoah Junction". The memorial included a pre-arranged special engine horn salute from passing Amtrak Capitol Limited.

New Partnership

There was no update on the new partnership with Winchester & Middletown Model Railroad Association.

Diesel Locomotive 820 (former EL 421)

There was no update on the locomotive situation.

Chapter caboose C 207

A MOU (memorandum of understanding) was finalized and signed this week, Thursday, September 12. This will enable the start of the track construction for the caboose to be relocated. The Administrative Committee (AC) expects that a motion for the estimated costs of caboose movement and repairs will be before the chapter by the October meeting (October 12). The caboose is expected to move to the new location in the latter part of October or early November. The MOU provides that the city has 30 days to get the pad ready for the new location after the signing of the MOU and the chapter has 90 days to move the caboose.

WC Chapter Name Change

The topic of changing the chapter name to something like "Northern Shenandoah Valley" was briefly addressed to keep the idea current before the membership. If there is to be a name change this would be effective after the end of the current calendar year coinciding with the completion of the caboose move and appropriate signage thereto.

Monthly "Railroadiana Spotlight":

In the absence of Jeff Jordan member Carl Stephanus presented a short humorous story on track defects from the perspective of two drunks walking along the middle of a railroad track.

Meeting Adjournment and This Month's Program:

Tonight's meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM, followed by presentation of slides of railroads in the east primarily from the early 1970's as related to the Erie Lackawanna, Jersey Central, Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania Reading Seashore Lines, etc. taken mostly in or close to New Jersey by Kevin Horn.