

Meeting Minutes Winchester Chapter, NRHS

Meeting Date:	August 10, 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 0 guests

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by President Van Welton

President's Report:

President Van Welton recognized visitors and new members of the Chapter. He informed those in attendance that member James Cashell had died as reported Friday, August 9. Subsequently, it appears that there are no known identities of surviving relatives such as former spouse and the absence of any reported siblings or children. Consequently, further developments such as funeral and burial are unknown at this time.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer reported that the current bank accounts in the checking account and two CD funds consisting of \$5,642.64 and \$6,000 prior to interest earned. A motion to accept the report as presented was made and passed with no objections.

Secretary's Report:

Kevin Horn had previously emailed on August 7 the minutes from the July 13, 2024 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes as presented that was seconded and approved.

National Representative's Report:

President Van Elton reported that Jim Cashell, former national representative, locally known as "the mayor of Shenandoah Junction", will be recognized with a plaque at Shen. Jct. and an Amtrak engine horn salute on the WC Shen. Jct. Day, Saturday, August 17.

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

President Van Welton reported that the third annual railfan day at Shenandoah Junction is scheduled for Saturday, August 17, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. Reportedly Norfolk Southern Railroad is sending a Trainmaster particular to the H (Hagerstown) line to speak to the group.

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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

Vice President Jeff Summerlin had a video of the exterior siding of the WC caboose, C 207, so the membership could see the deteriorated exterior wood. President Van Welton noted that the draft contract had been received Friday, August 9, from the City of Winchester for the placement of the caboose. Van Welton noted that he had already been contacted by several local groups wishing to use the caboose for events such as Christmas festivities, etc. He noted that three bids for the repair and or replacement of the wooden exterior siding had been received and that one was regarded to be too low and one regarded to be too high. President Van Welton expressed that there was some consideration of giving the caboose away but he regarded the chapter to repair it for the benefit of the chapter and the community. He urged the membership to consider donating a tax-deductible gift between \$50 to \$100 for the caboose restoration fund. The timing of the repairs is likely to be after the caboose is moved to the new location in mid to late October. The administrative committee is considering having chapter volunteers do the exterior painting of the new siding to reduce the total cash cost of the repairs paid to the contractor.

Douglas Russel Memorial Service

Member Carl Stephanus reminded the group that there will be a remembrance memorial service for deceased former member Doug Russell on August 16 and a service at First Presbyterian Church on August 17 at 2:00 pm.

WC Chapter Name Change

President Van Welton reminded the group that there is active consideration underway for a chapter name change reflecting that the current membership does not consist exclusively any more of local Winchester residents but stretches considerable distances both south and north from "Winchester" in the Shenandoah Valley. One possible suggestion was "Northern Shenandoah Valley" if the local Harrisburg chapter ceases to be active. Currently there are 82 members and the trend toward 100 members appears within reach.

Membership Agent

President Van Welton reminded the group that there is still a need for a "membership agent" who will assist with the details of organizing to accommodate members and guests, for example name tags, etc.

Monthly "Railrodiana Spotlight":

Jeffrey Jordan was the main presenter in lieu of his railrodiana spotlight.

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Meeting Adjournment and This Month's Program:

Tonight's meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM, followed by presentation of recent photos of member Noah Collins before the regular program, "You can be an Engineer" by Jeffrey Jordan. Jeff showed the chapter his photos of his recent trip in a cab ride on the Durango & Silverton narrow gauge between Durango and Silverton riding locomotive 473 (K-28).