

Meeting Minutes Winchester Chapter, NRHS

Meeting Date:	July 13, 2024
Meeting Location:	In the Fellowship Hall of the Calvary Covenant Brethren Church, Winchester, VA
Minutes Submitted by:	Kevin Horn, Chapter Secretary
Attendance	27 members and 6 guests

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

President's Report:

Van Welton recognized visitors and new members of the Chapter.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer reported that the current bank accounts as \$6,936.24 in the checking account and two CD funds consisting of \$5,642.64 and \$6,000 prior to interest earned with \$500 to be added to the checking account balance as a result of a contribution elicited by Vice President Jeff Summerlin from Wal Mart. A motion to accept the report as presented was made and passed with no objections.

Secretary's Report:

Kevin Horn had previously emailed on July 10 the minutes from the June 8, 2024 meeting, including a proposed motion pertaining to the caboose, C 207, and a proclamation in support of the Shenandoah Rail Corridor, both which will be before the membership this meeting. A motion to accept the minutes as presented that was seconded and approved.

National Representative's Report:

Jim Cashell reported that the national organization 2024 annual convention in Harrisburg, PA, August 26 through August 31 appears to be a big success by virtue of the host hotel reported to be sold out. There were reports of some local special train movements such as a CSX military train to Cumberland.

New Business

To save time and effort, members are encouraged to present new business to the Administrative Committee (Van, Jeff, Kevin, Carl and James) 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.

Meeting Minutes Winchester Chapter, NRHS

New Partnership

President Van Welton indicated that WC member Jeff Jordan is the point of contact for members wishing to contribute to the railroad theme interior decorations for a new building in Middletown for the Winchester & Middletown Model Railroad Association.

Diesel Locomotive 820 (former EL 421)

There was no update on the locomotive situation.

Chapter caboose C 207

Kevin Horn reported on the bid received from a local contractor to replace the wood siding on the 1914 caboose as part of a forthcoming relocation from its 67-year current location at Clearwater Park, Winchester to the downtown area of Winchester. The current wooden siding appears to have been replaced about twenty years ago and parts have deteriorated such that the structural composition of the wood is rotted and likely leaking water. Jeff Summerlin is soliciting another (second) bid.

President Welton introduced a motion from Caboose Relocation Committee, previously approved by the Administrative Committee (AC) and circulated to the membership, July 10, 2024

“The Caboose Relocation Committee moves the chapter to

1. *Rescind the Chapter’s authorization, approved at its regular meeting on 5/13/2023, to relocate the C207 caboose to Middletown, Virginia.*
2. *To accept the invitation of Winchester, Virginia to relocate the chapter caboose to the grassy area next to the Winchester Police Station, and*
3. *To hire Dave’s Truck Repair of Chambersburg, PA., at a cost of \$2,500.00 to move the Chapter’s caboose from Clear Brooke Park to the planned Middletown site, and*
4. *To explore and solicit private donations, a preservation grant from the National NRHS, county/state/federal grants and other sources of funding to accomplish the relocation and installation”.*

President Welton declared that the motion was approved hearing none opposed.

Chapter Proclamation in support of Shenandoah Rail Corridor

President Welton introduced the proclamation (previously sent to the membership July 10, 2024) discussing the approximately 50-mile proposed walking and hiking trail adjacent to the rail corridor between Front Royal and Broadway. The proposed “Shenandoah Rail Corridor” would support the land use for both rails and trails in support of their efforts to save the railroad and adjacent historical properties along the line. The motion to adopt the proclamation was seconded and following discussion and call for the question the proclamation was passed by the membership.

WHEREAS, since railroading began in the Northern Shenandoah Valley in the late-1800’s, the valley has been served by freight and passenger railroads providing vital connections to commerce and our country; and WHEREAS, the National Railway Historical Society (NRHS) was founded in 1935 by a group of rail historians with the goal of preserving railway historical material and educating current and future generations about railroads and their history; and WHEREAS, in 1967, the Winchester Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society was established and is made up of working and retired railroaders, historians, and fans of rails and trains; and WHEREAS, the Chapter encourages and promotes public

Meeting Minutes Winchester Chapter, NRHS

awareness of area railroads and their history, the restoration and preservation of historic railroad equipment and properties. The chapter works to educate the public on the historical and significant role that railroads play in the Northern Shenandoah Valley, which is served by CSX, Norfolk Southern, Winchester and Western Railroads; and WHEREAS, continuing the tradition to preserve and save railroads, our chapter desires to see the Shenandoah Valley "B" Line returned to service to create economic, tourism and recreational opportunities and be truly multi-use that our community can enjoy, and our industry can depend on. THEREFORE, We the National Railway Historical Society, Winchester Chapter, strongly support the efforts of the Shenandoah Rail Corridor to save the Norfolk Southern's Shenandoah Valley "B" Line between Riverton Junction and Strasburg and to Edinburg under "Rails with Trails" that would offer the greatest option and benefit for the Northern Shenandoah Valley and its surrounding communities. Dated this day, July 13, 2024, and on behalf of Chapter Members, Van Welton, President, Winchester Chapter NRHS

Douglas Russel Memorial Service

Member Carl Stephanus reminded the group that there will be a remembrance memorial service for deceased former member Doug Russell the second or third week of August.

WC Chapter Name Change

President Welton reminded the group that the membership does not consist exclusively any more of local Winchester residents but stretches both south and north from "Winchester" in the Shenandoah Valley. Consequently, there is ongoing discussion about a name change that would reflect the chapter's current membership geographical coverage. Possible suggestions might be include "Harrisonburg", "Shenandoah Valley" etc. Members are invited to comment and or make suggestions.

Membership Agent

President 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 "Railroadiana Spotlight":

Jeffrey Jordan presentation was for a "long neck" oil can, the kind used by locomotive engineers for oiling moving exterior parts of steam locomotives. While the oil can had no date of manufacture it was embossed with "DLW" indicating a Lackawanna Railroad heritage. The best guess estimate is that the oil can is likely a century old.

Meeting Adjournment and This Month's Program:

Tonight's meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM, followed by this month's program, "A Short line, a Class One, Two Museums, and the Downeaster: A Railfan's Trip to Maine" by Van Welton. The presentation covered much of the contemporary rail fan activities in southern Maine particularly the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railroad rebirth of part of the historical two-foot gauge line and the Rockland branch (former Maine Central Railroad) recently idled with the loss of the primary freight shipper, Dragon Cement.