

Meeting Minutes Winchester Chapter, NRHS

Meeting Date:	November 9, 2024
Meeting Location:	In the Fellowship Hall of the Calvary Covenant Brethren Church, Winchester, VA
Minutes Submitted by:	Kevin Horn, Chapter Secretary
Attendance	28 members and 4 guests initially, 22 members and 10 guests

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

President's Report:

President Van Welton called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, introducing the Treasurer's Report and the Secretary's Report.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer, Carl Stephanus, reported that the current bank accounts consisting of the Bank of Clarke County checking has \$12,246.11 (including a \$5,000 caboose donation from Greater Cincinnati Foundation's P&G Fund and a \$3,120 deduction pending caboose movement payment) and Truist Bank checking, \$12,442.87. A motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented was made and passed with no objections.

Treasurer, Carl Stephanus, also reported that the current chapter membership consists of 95 persons effective at the beginning of the meeting and 101 persons at the close of the meeting noting that six guests had become members (three regular and three family).

Secretary's Report:

Carl Stephanus, Clerk Pro Tem for the October 12, 2024 meeting, reported that he had circulated the minutes to the members on October 23, 2024. Kevin Horn reported that he had not yet compiled and circulated the minutes from the September 14 meeting. President Van Welton declared that these minutes, September 14, October 12 and November 9, would be circulated and approved at the next chapter meeting.

Area Railroad News:

Trent Wolfensberger reported that Amtrak was initiating a new train, "Floridian", effective Sunday, November 10. This is a new temporary route offering a direct round-trip between Chicago and Miami with intermediate stops in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C., Orlando and Tampa that combines the routes of the Capitol Limited and Silver Star for a limited time. It was also reported that Norfolk Southern Railroad is seeking suggestions for a new heritage locomotive and that the recent CSX heritage locomotive for Clinchfield Railroad will lead the annual Christmas train.

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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.

Motion on Name Change

The Administrative Committee moves the membership to change the chapter name to “Northern Shenandoah Chapter, NRHS” on January 1, 2025, to more accurately represent and reflect the Chapter’s regional influence and membership from throughout the Shenandoah Valley, Harrisonburg, Virginia to Hagerstown, Maryland, and intermediate points east and west.

Discussion of the motion noted that there was a “Shenandoah Chapter, NRHS” located at Harrisonburg, VA. This chapter was believed to not be very active, however, there is no conflict with the proposed name for the Winchester Chapter. There was a motion to call for the question, which was approved and the motion passed.

Chapter Dues Motion

The Administrative Committee moves the membership to approve the increase in Chapter annual dues to (effective January 1, 2025):

Regular Membership	\$20.00
Family Membership	\$ 5.00 (additional unlimited number of family members)

The total that a family of 2 or more would be \$25.00.

Discussion of the motion affirmed that early payment of future dues could be made at the current rates before January 1, 2025. There was a motion to call for the question, which was approved and the motion passed.

Dave’s Truck Repair Payment

Administrative Committee moves the membership to pay the invoice received from Dave’s Truck Repair, Inc. for overcharges incurred in the move of the caboos: \$620.00. The grand total for moving the caboos is \$3,120. The Chapter had previously approved a contract with Dave’s Truck Repair for \$2,500.

Discussion of the motion indicated that the Administrative Committee (AC) has the authority under the by-laws to spend up to \$600.00 without member approval. The \$620 expenditure included \$500 for cost overruns occasioned by the Dave’s Truck Repair (a fraction of the actual increased costs absorbed by the vendor on behalf of the chapter) and \$120 for police permits to move the oversize object. The motion was seconded and approved.

Chapter caboos C 207

President Van Welton indicated that there would be a chapter work day at the caboos for painting and interior cleaning beginning 8:00 am on Saturday, November 16. He noted that the new siding on the

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Winchester & Western side has received a primer coat of paint but needs a second application. Other items needing attention included painting the floor, brake rigging, building stair steps (Van Metre Homes donated the wood), digging of a trench for electrical wiring (24 inches deep) and decoration of the interior of the caboose for the public as opposed to railfans. President Van Welton reported that there was a sign-up sheet on the back table that outlines all of the tasks to be done in preparation for the public reception and opening of the caboose, Saturday, November 23. With regard to a ramp instead of a stair case to access the caboose President Van Welton indicated that it had been decided not to have a ramp for access to the caboose since the caboose door was not sufficient size for handicapped access. It was noted that the City of Winchester had determined that the caboose was not a park or a pavilion that therefore would not have to be ADA compliant. President Van Welton indicated that there was already strong interest in the local community in the caboose including a Christmas Winter Village on December 7 from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm and a Winchester New Year's Eve engagement on December 31 from 4:00 to 8:00 pm.

A list of major donors to the caboose relocation as of November 21, 2024 is as follows: (1) City of Winchester; (2) MC Fence and Deck; (3) Hub Scrap Metals of Northern VA, LLC, (4) Dave's Truck Repair; (5) Shenandoah Fab Metal; (6) Stuart M. Perry, Inc.; (7) Perry Engineering Co., Inc.; (8) Valley Railroad Company; (9) Bank of Clarke County; (10) Black Water Designer Concrete; (11) Capital Electric, A Sonepar Company; (12) Direct Electric USA; (13) Regal Paint Center of Winchester; (14) Winchester Cold Storage; (15) Walmart Store #3344 of Winchester; (16) Walmart Store #5105 of Front Royal; (17) Walmart Store #4514 of Winchester; (18) Stambaugh Masonry, Inc.; (19) Clear Choice Printing; (20) Stone House Construction; (21) Morgan Rail Service; (22) Auto Care Clinic of Front Royal; (23) Stroker Hand Painted Signs; (24) Blue Ridge Habitat for Humanity; (25) The Greater Cincinnati Foundation and the P&G Fund; (26) Membership of the Winchester Chapter-NRHS; (27) NRHS Heritage Grants Program of the National Railway Historical Society; (27) Historic Grant Program of the CW&EC Stephanus Charitable Trust; (28) Van Metre Homes; and (29) Pine Knoll Construction.

Christmas Party and Banquet

President Van Welton indicated that the chapter's annual Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 14. The chapter's annual banquet will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2025, the guest speaker is Bill Shafer formerly Director of Strategic Development for Norfolk Southern and more recently Director of Development for the Tennessee Valley Railroad.

Monthly "Railroadiana Spotlight":

Jeffrey Jordan made a presentation on railroad lanterns manufactured by Adlake Kero. A short history of Adams & Westlake as one of the best known and oldest manufacturers of railroad lanterns was provided. It was noted that the company otherwise known as "Adlake" manufactured all kinds of lanterns and metallic objects. Presented was a Kero 200 series lantern and a Kero 250 series lantern. The Adake lanterns were noted as the most successful in railroad applications partly because of a short chimney design. It was noted that the production of railroad lanterns for railroads ceased in the early 1960's with the wide spread adoption of battery powered lights. Today railroad kerosene lanterns are

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usually found in antique shops ranging from \$50 to \$150 in price depending on condition, age and railroad markings if any.

Meeting Adjournment and This Month's Program:

Tonight's meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm followed by presentation, "F Units on the Winchester & Western: A Short-Lived Appearance", by Mason Cooper. Through a series of slides in chronological order Mason described the acquisition of two Milwaukee F diesel electric units that were essentially in scrap condition that were delivered to the Winchester & Western (WW) for rebuilding. One unit was not serviceable and used for parts. The other unit was gradually restored to operating condition and used for a short time by the WW in local freight and some passenger excursion service pending delivery to the Maryland Midland Railway.