

# Northwest Michigan Engine and Thresher Club, Inc.

## Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 4/9/21

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Place:** Sam Zue Building

**Executive board members present:**  Todd Benson,  Brandon Jenkins,  Mike Woodward,  Barb Hobson,  Janice Clous,  Larry Clous,  Frank Holzschu,  Carl VanWylen,  Ham Hobson,  Steve Scott,  Jim Luper  Ron Decker (Past President)

Meeting called to order at 7:31pm by President Todd Benson

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Membership.

Opening prayer was given by Pastor Hewitt.

President Todd Benson thanked everyone for coming. He also gave a thank you to the many people who donated time, money and items to complete projects and maintenance during last summer and fall. Many projects were completed with goods already on the grounds. A list is available on the new membership page.

There many deaths reported since the last meeting. Joe Parkey, Herb VanWylen, Betty Benzing, Tom Moomey, Gaylene Clark, Bob Wheeler, Jack Trowbridge, Ben Benzing, Bob Fitzgerald, Terry Frees, Lyle Mattison, John Urka, Madonna Clous, Don Star, and Steve Burnett. A moment of silence was held for all.

No current illnesses were reported.

The November 2020 meeting was cancelled so Secretary Mike Woodward read the minutes from the October 2020 membership meeting. They were approved as read.

Financial Secretary Barb Hobson reported on income from October of 2020 through March of 2021. There was \$1,370.11 in income for the month of March 2021. Barb also updated the membership on the boots for kids' donations.

Treasurer Jan Clous reported expenses for October of 2020 through March 2021. There is a check book balance of \$749.06 as of the end of March 2021. The savings account has a balance of \$32,828.00.

Both reports were approved as read

Brandon Jenkins informed the membership that negotiations were ongoing to update the contract for the gas plant. A lawyer familiar with the industry was retained to update the new contract.

Todd reported that all members of the board retained their seats at the election that was held last fall.

There were no new members inducted but new prospects were asked to meet with the Pastor in the kitchen after the meeting. Pastor thanked Brandon for filling in for him last year.

The crop lands were planted last fall. Dutchman will be fertilizing those needing it soon. They will also need to be sprayed for weeds. The board authorized the purchase of a used sprayer. Jan and Larry have been working on it and it should be ready for use, so we do not have to hire someone to spray anymore.

All the water tests have been being done by Jan and Larry and we are current on all needed tests.

A reminder that dues are payable now. The board has waived all late fees again. Some still have not paid 2020. Your dues must be current to be able to work on the grounds.

The white board is in the Sam Zue. If you have projects that need help or completion, please put them on the board.

The show date was misprinted in the calendar. The board voted to change the posted dates to the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in August like it should have been. Please help get the word out about the change.

Plans are progressing to move forward in anticipation of having a show in 2021. Many things are still up in the air pending whatever the current restrictions will be. Things have been changing daily but we will push forward with planning what we can do if allowed. Some other shows are waiting on making decisions, some have cancelled already, and some are trying to plan reduced and virtual shows. A discussion was had on what was felt that we would be able to have at a show. A show of hands of those present who would be willing to work was taken with mixed results. Todd explained that the board will pick a date in the future to make a call on whether a show will happen or not. There are too many changes happening to make a final decision as of now. Many factors such as Insurance, liability, current restrictions, permits and health department requirements will have to be factored into a decision when the time comes.

The spring swap meet will take place. It was decided that since it is outdoors proper spacing, and precautions can be taken to make it happen under current restrictions. A food truck will be available. The dates are May 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Jim Luper gave the membership an update on the member web page which is now up and running. If you go to the bottom right on the home page there is a link to click to sign up. Once you are approved as a current paid member you will be given access to it. It has a lot of information on it for members. Minutes will be posted there, and a copy of the by-laws will also be accessible. An e mail was sent out to all those on the e mail list with information on how to enroll.

The Buckley promotional book was already to far into printing to stop when the decision was made last year to cancel show. We were able to get around 10,000 copies distributed and have around 28,000 left. Todd informed the membership that the intention is to sell enough adds to print a wrap around of around 16 pages to put over the remaining old copies and distribute them this year. If we do not distribute the old copies, they won't be good for another year. It will have the new show dates and most of the non-ad space will be informative to get dates and important information out. Todd has about 1/3 of the add space sold. He was asked if all the ad space is not sold would the book still be printed, and he replied that it would still be needed no matter what in anticipation of having a show. It is not possible to wait until later to be able to get them printed and distributed. If you know of anyone who wants to advertise let Todd know.

The board has a preliminary list of Committee chairs. Board members will be contacting all chairpersons to confirm the list before the next board meeting. We still need co-chairs for the bathrooms, holding area and youth committee. Tom Farnsworth and Todd March volunteered to chair the youth committee.

Scholarship applications were taken last fall and the board was going to determine what if any could be sent out based on finances. An anonymous member stepped forward and donated enough money to be able to give out scholarships to those who applied. The e board and club would like to thank them whoever they are.

Brandon is getting the new garbage contract handled. Chairs for the committee are being worked on.

The club zero turn mower is being offered to club members by sealed bid. It is very used and has many issues. It is a 26HP, there are oil leaks on the engine, hydraulics are good and the deck is worn but patched in many places. It will be sold as-is. Sealed bids will be accepted between tonight and the May membership meeting. A minimum starting bid of \$200 has been determined. It will be sold to the highest bid over \$200.00. Please get your bids to any board member by the May meeting.

Brandon reported that there have been many requests by members to bring their UTV's to show. He is working on new regulations on what will be accepted and a new form. All member owned golf carts and UTV's must be approved and have proof of insurance provided. They must have a use on the grounds and not just be for personal transportation. Rides to guests must be given.

A wooden toy collection created by Lloyd Burns will be on loan to the club. Carl is working with the lawyer on a loan contract for the family. Shelves will be constructed for display on the outside walls of the club house basement as they need to be in a climate-controlled area.

Credit card acceptance for entrance during show is being worked on. It has been harder than expected due to wi-fi constraints. It is being explored as part of new gate configurations for future shows.

Show dates for the next 5-years show and education days will be posted on the web site once confirmed.

Donations: Todd has looked at some items in Star City, a feed mixer and some line shafts, Carl has inspected an all wood manure spreader and an 1800's horse cart. An Oliver Hart-par was brought in tonight. Carl has sent thank you cards to all donors.

The gate combinations on the grounds have the yearly change. See Mike W if you need the combination. Please notify him if you give it to another member so he can record who has it.

May will be the next membership meeting. April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm will be the next executive board meeting. A meeting of all committee chairs will be held on Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm in the Sam Zue building. All chairpersons are asked to attend.

There is enough steel and wheels on the grounds to make a new depot wagon.

May 8<sup>th</sup>, Nelda Fredricks is having an estate auction in Big Rapids. Information has been posted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm

Submitted by Secretary Mike Woodward.