Northwest Michigan Engine and Thresher Club, Inc.

Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: 5/7/2021 **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 7:37pm by President Todd Benson and last call was given for sealed bids on the zero-turn mower.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Membership.

Opening prayer was given by Pastor Hewitt.

There was 1 death reported. Carl Cavich, A moment of silence was held for him.

The following members have been ill last month, Ron Bancroft, Tom Farnsworth, and Alex Younkman. Cards were passed around.

Todd Benson read a note sent in from a member thanking those who have worked on the grounds and donated the past year.

Secretary Mike Woodward read the minutes from the April 2021 membership meeting. They were approved as read with one correction, the check book balance was $3,978.06, the $749.06 was the expenses for March.

Financial Secretary Barb Hobson reported income of $3,560.26 for the month of April 2021.

Treasurer Jan Clous reported expenses of $1,366.43 with an ending checkbook balance of $7,182.50 as of the end of April. The savings balance is $32,832.96.

Both reports were approved as read

The following were welcomed as new members by the membership. Sam Emery, Jason Scott, and Walt Smith.

It was announced that the crops on club land are looking good. The wheat was fertilized by Dutchman Farms. The rye was not because it will be turned under again this fall as green fertilizer. The crops will be sprayed for weeds next weekend. The club will be purchasing the chemicals and the sprayer is now in working order.

Jan and Larry have all the well testing current. If we are able to have a show this year the rest of the wells will need to be turned on, chlorinated and tested.

A reminder was given that dues are payable at $5.00 for members. It was clarified that for 2020 all late fees were waived but if dues are not paid by the June meeting, they will go up to $15, and then to $35 in July. You must have your dues current to be able to work on the grounds.

The meeting announcement sent out via e mail was clarified. Some read it to say that work bees were cancelled. For clarification it was to mean that only the potlucks at the work bees and membership meetings are cancelled.

Work bees will still be taking place over the summer and will be announced at meetings and listed on the White board in the Sam Zue with other projects and donations.

Todd announced that there are some good tires available on the grounds if anyone needs them for a club project.

The new show dates as well as show dates, education days, and swap meets for the next five years are now listed on the web site. The show dates for this year are now displayed more prominently.

The board has decided that a decision to go or no go on the 2021 show will be made around July 9th. Member input will be taken and considered by the board. Todd has talked to State Representative Jack O'Malley and he is very optimistic about restrictions being lifted. Carl has been working with Nate on insurance that will be needed.

The Swap meet will be taking place May 14th and 15th. No electrical service will be available. Jim Luper feels that based on all the calls he has received, that it will be well attended.

There are over 150 members signed up for the new member section of the web site. You can still sign up at any time by going to the website home page and at the bottom right there will be a tab to click on to join. Barb asked that if anyone has filled out the log in page and has not been able to get in, please contact her.

It was anticipated that the ad book would be ready by tonight's meeting but there have been some delays due to Covid issues. Todd and Alex will be working to get it done by the next meeting so they can be folded over the old books and distributed. It is close to being paid for with ad sales. If you still have anyone needing an ad, get a hold of Todd ASAP as it is about ready to go to print.

The Committee head list is being finalized for approval. There will be a Committee head meeting on June 19th at 1:00pm in the Sam Zue. All Chairs are asked to please attend.

Brandon is still finalizing the new regulations and form for member UTV use during show.

Carl VanWylen and Mike Woodward are working on new entrance gate configurations. They will be talking to the committees involved to get input on how to implement the plan.

The Webbers who donated the Webber barn and the Elders who donated the Snow engine have inquired about when it may run on gas for the first time. It has been reported that there are still many things that need to be done to get to that point and with things the way they are it may be a while.

Todd reminded everyone that if you are not receiving e mail reminders and notifications, please get Mike W your e mail address.

The combination on all club locks have been changed. See Mike W for the combination so he can log who has it. If you give it to another member, please let Mike know.

There will be a work bee tomorrow on the railroad.

The Empire Historical Society has contacted Todd looking for information on some engines that were made in Traverse City. If you know of any company's who made them contact Todd.

Brandon has been working on the contract with Jaguar Energy for the Gas plant. He has sent a certified letter to them with the dates that they need to shut the plant down this summer. He has received no response, but the letter was signed for.

Someone cut the lock off the Yellow box car that has been used by the print shop for storage for many years and replaced it with a different one. No one is supposed to enter another committee's area without notifying that committee. The print shop will be trying to make room inside for possible storage. A sign will be posted with contact information for Theresa and Mike.

Ideas were presented at the last E board meeting for the Dairy booth. It is being considered that they will serve ice cream and possibly soda. It will be discussed at a future E board meeting. The committee has 90% of the funds they need for infrastructure repairs.

The membership was informed that there is to be absolutely NO unauthorized spending or charges on club accounts. Finances are being stretched to the limit. In the past this would be the time that money would be coming in from the flea market but most of that money was rolled over from last year's cancelation of show. The Buckley Hardware account is being restricted so only the E board is allowed to make or authorize a charge until further notice. All members should be prepared to pay any charges or expenditures they make out of their own pockets if they are not pre-approved by the board.

There were no new donations this month, Carl has brought the Hart Parr, the manure spreader and horse drawn carriage to the grounds.

There will be an auction tomorrow at 10:00am in Big Rapids at Nelda and the late Ron Fredericks home. Please attend and bid high if you can.

There will be an E board meeting May 21st at the Sam Zue at 7:00pm. June 4th at 7:30pm will be the next membership meeting.

The bids were revealed for the zero-turn mower. There were two bids, and the highest bid was $326. The bid was accepted by the board. Ethan Benson was the high bidder.

John Crofoot stood up and informed the Snow Engine committee that when the Snow Engine is ready to be turned on gas for the first time, Joe Elders, the son of the old owners wants to be here for the first firing. He asked the committee to notify him when they are ready to try it so Joe can be notified.

The membership was informed to NOT use any gas out of the tanks on the grounds. It has been contaminated with water.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm

Submitted by Club Secretary

Mike Woodward