

Northwest Michigan Engine and Thresher Club, Inc.

Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: 4/1/2022

Time: 7:30pm

Place: Club House

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

Meeting called to order at 7:34pm by President Todd Benson

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Membership

There were 6 deaths reported over the winter. Robert Mikovits, AJ Moorland, Art Hogarth, Gordy Wilde, Russ Portegas, and Mose Matthews. A moment of silence was held for all.

The following members have been ill, Mike Winters and Alex Younkman. Cards were passed around.

Secretary Mike Woodward read the minutes from the November membership meeting. President Benson called for approval of the minutes. Tom Farnsworth spoke up, He said that he wanted it noted in the minutes that after the vote for an audit was taken, he asked for attendance to be counted to see if the vote had a 2/3 majority of votes of those present as stated is needed in the by-laws for passage and that President Benson had told him that we were not going to do that. He also wanted it noted that Todd had stated that many members and those involved with the crops were consulted in the decision to not remove trees in the west planting area. Tom claimed that the chairman of the threshing committee was not consulted. A vote for approval was called for and the minutes were approved with 1 nay vote.

Financial Secretary Barb Hobson read the income reports for November of 2021 through March of 2022.

Approved as read

Treasurer Jan Clous reported expense reports from November of 2021 through March of 2022. She reported that money was transferred from the checking to the savings giving a checkbook balance as of March 31st of \$38,635.20 and a savings balance of \$172,887.94. President Benson asked for approval, Tom Farnsworth spoke asked about the cost of the two lawyer bills and why the bill for Eric Field was \$600 and the oilfield lawyer was only \$200. Todd reported that there was a difference because of travel and the type of work that was performed. Eric usually does his work pro bono but due to the amount of time and nature of what was involved, he had to charge for his time. The report was then approved as read

Todd reported that the Pastor was not present so if there were any prospective new members, please see Todd.

An update was given on the oil field and what had progressed since the last meeting. As previously reported a certified letter had been sent to Jaguar energy, it was signed for, and no response had been received. No rent payments had been received since March of 2021. The oil field lawyer was going to send another letter after the 90-day response time had expired. Brandon was able to get a contact name for the new owners, Hound Resources, and was able to make contact with them. The letter sent by the club was never forward' to them by the old owners. The since have signed the new contract and paid all the back due rent. They actually paid the higher amount from the new contract. They have been very responsive to all contacts by Brandon. He also has

the name of a local contact and he and Todd have met personally with him. They have promised to clean up the site. Dates for the plant shut down were finalized at the last e board meeting and will be sent to them. Norm Schutte asked if they have a bond to cover any damage or toxic clean-up of the property if it arises. Todd did not know. Norm asked to have it checked out.

The Christmas tree cutting contract for 2021 has been paid. It was a payment of around \$28,000 +/- . It was cut very hard this year so next year will be considerably smaller. They will also fertilize this year.

2022 dues are payable now at \$5.00, Chis Decker is collecting them.

A future dues increase is being considered by the board. It has been brought up by many people to help with costs. Our club has very small dues compared to other clubs like ours. Nothing has been finalized, it is just being investigated at this time. It will be brought to the membership for approval if anything is decided on.

Todd reported that when he checked the website earlier, many things need to be updated. He said that Lisa was not shown as the new trustee when he looked. Carl V asked that his phone number be taken off. Lisa would also like her e mail changed to her new one. Barb and Jim will investigate as they think everything is updated and current.

Todd reported that the Lily pearl square dancing tractors have disbanded as they don't have enough younger members to continue. Hannah Elliot has an idea for a possibly forming a new group and will be investigating what it would take.

Jacob from the harness shop has told Todd that there is a cobbler interested in doing something in the cobbler shop that is attached to the harness shop. Todd has his contact information and will investigate.

A section of narrow-gauge railroad track was donated. Contact Carl if you have a use for it. Carl also reported that there is a power hacksaw available, a lighting panel in Freeport, and a 6' John Deere grain binder. Glen Segraves has information on the binder (Carl will check it out) and Steve Scott will check out the lighting panel.

Todd asked Barb about Education Days. She will know more soon when schools start planning for next year, Jim said figure it is a go with an asterisk.

May is scheduled to be a potluck dinner before the meeting, Barb says if it is going to happen, she needs many volunteers to make it happen. Please sign up with her if you can help. Three people volunteered at that time.

Someone asked if the print shop was going to run this year, he was informed by Mike that it has run every year that we have had a show and was open all four days in 2021.

Barrells have been found for the pop can collection. Todd has them lined up and they need to be picked up. Val will be contacted as they are in Baldwin near where she lives. Jim will follow up with Val.

There will be a committee head meeting on Saturday May 21st, at 1:00pm. That is the Saturday of the spring swap meet. All committee chairs are asked to please attend.

Last fall, \$10,000 was approved by the membership by motion for work on the Snow Engine. Tony has many projects to complete so if you can help, please let him know. Lee Lowing challenge all individual members to match a \$500 pledge he is making toward the Snow Engine. He would like only individuals, not groups, to match his donation.

Todd has been getting contractor bids to put a new roof on the town hall. He has a price on shingles and is waiting on a price for steel. He is having issues finding contractors to bid. It is a very steep roof that he feels the club cannot do ourselves.

An e mail was sent to Todd informing him the chairs of the parking committee are going to step down after the 2022 show. They will help train new chairs this year if someone can be found. The change of the guest, shuttles and camping entry gate's will not be able to be put in place for the 2022 show, but an attempt will be made to finalize things for 2023.

Last year we had a failure in how we brought exhibitors in due to having no chairs for the registration gate, but we made do and survived. All efforts will be put into changing and combining the member, exhibitor and flea market gates to the north of the old caretaker house and changing the purpose of the east gate for the 2022 show. An e board meeting is being held at noon tomorrow and it will be discussed then.

The health department informed the club that a numbering system needs to be created for the entire camping area during their inspection at last years show. It needs to include the show camping and member camping area. They wanted every site numbered. After talking to them further, it is felt that all they really want is a good map with all camping areas and spots numbered. It is felt they will be happy with numbered blocks, so it is not as bad as it was originally though. It will also be discussed tomorrow.

Brandon is still working on a sound system for the Sam Zue building.

Raising gate fees for all show attendees, members, guests and exhibitors is also being discussed. A possible \$25 fee for all has been proposed.

Removal of some pine trees to the east of handicap parking has been proposed for more parking spaces. The handicap parking and the pines camping need to get together and discuss things.

The new calendars are at the printer. They may be ready by the May meeting. A bid package for the plaques, ribbons and cider mill cups is being put together for bids.

The foundry needs a chairperson and a co-chair. Any club member with foundry experience is asked to please think about helping out.

The lock combination on all gates has had its yearly change. See Mike Woodward if you need the combination.

A 40' tall history pole with items welded to it was proposed at the November meeting. It has been tabled by the board as no one has come forward to take on the project.

Carl VanWylen has informed the board that the Big Prairie tractors would like to find a new location. They have moved several times and none of the areas have really worked well except for one. It needs to be worked on and looked at. Jim feels that the finger of vendors that sticks down into the flea market needs to be pulled back into the flea market, Mike W agreed.

Steve Scott presented the board with an available old-time schoolhouse. It is about 135 miles away. Todd contacted a house mover and was given a preliminary estimate of around \$30,000 to move it plus the cost of tear down and re-set to be able to move it. Many present thought that a closer building would be a better option, and some were discussed but they were in very rough condition.

1920's Antique post office equipment was presented by Jim Luper and the Hobsons to the board. It was available for purchase by the club at a reasonable cost. Through an e mail vote of the board, it was approved for purchase. It was purchased for \$625 and is on site. A building has been proposed by Ham. There is room between the General store and Barber shop on Front Street. It would have the post office in the front and a display area in back that could be used for the wooden antique toys. Todd and Nate have also been working on building plans that could also be used for the post office at a cost of around \$6,000 with some lumber being donated. Jim proposed that postcards that are being made in by guests in the print shop could be then mailed at the post office.

Todd also proposed that a lean too could be put on one or both sides of the machine museum. A high cost would be about \$10,000 for a 16' by 80' on one side. He feels that the snowmobile and motorcycle display's that were in there last will grow in the future and lean-tos could be used for that and for storage in the winter. Lee Lowing remarked at one time he offered to pay for those to put his tractor collection in, but it was turned down by a previous board. Todd remarked that he believes it was turned down because even though some member equipment is stored on the grounds, a whole collection could have been a liability. Steve would like to have a hoop building put on the grounds.

The passenger car for the big train will be worked on this summer. It may not be ready by show this year. Lumber will be needed for the deck and cover. Todd has a possible source for black locust trees that could be cut up. The old car is becoming a safety issue and had many problems last year. It will be looked at before use this year.

There are free gas engine magazines available in a box up front.

Prices are being solicited for corrugated steel for the roofs on the old depot and some of the buildings on Front Street. That would preserve the historical look of the buildings.

The club house also needs siding repairs and window repairs.

Barb addressed the membership, many members have signed up for the member page on the web site but according to the numbers, they have never visited the sight. She asked if anyone is having problems logging in to please contact her.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12pm

Submitted by Secretary Mike Woodward