

# Northwest Michigan Engine and Thresher Club, Inc.

## Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 5/5/2023

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Place:** Sam Zue Building

**Executive board members present:** ☒ Todd Benson, ☒ Kim Yancich, ☒ Mike Woodward, ☒ Barb Hobson, ☒ Janice Clous, ☒ Larry Clous, ☒ Lisa Gulliver, ☒ Brandon Jenkins, ☒ Ham Hobson, ☒ Blain Tarrant, ☒ Jim Luper

Meeting called to order at 7:35pm by President Todd Benson

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Membership.

Opening prayer was given by Sean Emery

No deaths were reported.

Illness: Francine Bott, Ron Stark, Paul Belanger. Cards were passed around.

Mike Woodward read the Secretary's report from April, Approved as Read

Financial Secretary Barb Hobson reported April Income of \$1,955.60.

Treasurer Jan Clous reported April Expenses of \$8,706.89 with an ending checkbook balance of \$22,216.39. The savings balance was \$211,868.64. Jan asked that if you have a bill to mail, please send it to the Club PO box. Box 182, Buckley, MI 49620.

Both reports were approved as read.

Dan Giddis JR., Jay and Elizabeth Hopkins, Chad Reed, Ian Marsh, Ray Dornbusch, Bryce Fox, Keith Beerens, and Kevin Beerens were all welcomed as new members.

Todd informed the membership that proposals had been made at previous e board and membership meetings to raise the membership dues. He read from the minutes a motion that was made to bring to the membership for consideration of a raising of the dues to \$10 in 2024 and then to \$20 in 2026. He asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to that effect. **\*\*Motion Paula Tarrant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Scott to raise the membership dues to \$10.00 per person in 2024 and to \$20 per person in 2026.** There was discussion by the membership on the need for a raise in dues. It was explained that the current club dues do not even cover postage for mailings, the garbage and other contracts have all went up, etc... It was suggested that it be raised in 2024 but that it be evaluated in the future in lieu of an automatic raise in 2026. **\*\*Previous Motion amended by Paula Tarrant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Scott to raise the membership dues to \$10 per person in 2024 and the dues be re-evaluated in the future for a possible additional raise. Yes/no vote passed by majority with 1 nay vote.**

The new Calendars will be available at the June meeting.

Items were on display from the Hospitality house for sale to members at tonight's meeting. Metal license plates have been ordered and will be available in the future. Natalie also asked if there were any club benches or lawn chair donations available to be used at the park area she sets up.

The promotional books are available tonight. Some have been distributed already, please take some and get them out to vendors who have advertised and any places willing to take them. Please let Todd know if you take them to an advertiser.

Todd reported that he has not been able to get any music acts set up before printing the books. He is still hopeful to have some, but he is working on a more active movie night. Last year's movie night did not get enough promotion, so it was sparsely attended. He is planning a John Deere night and a Farmall night this year. Movies will be showing about each brand. It will be in the Sam Zue on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. There will be raffles and prizes. More advertising will be put on the grounds during the show promoting it and it has been put in the book. He is looking for a popcorn machine to borrow.

Brandon has spoken with Bill Fenton about the crops. Last year plowing was difficult because of all the weeds and mixed in rye. Their plan is to kill the rye off and plant oats. In the future only Oats and Wheat will be planted. This should eliminate some of the plowing issues.

The book that had the blue forms of personally owned equipment on club grounds has not been found. A new book is being generated. Anyone with equipment or items on the grounds is asked to fill out a form listing all items on loan or on club grounds. Ham Hobson has the forms and is compiling the book.

The Traverse City Cherry Festival has approached the club about putting tractors in the Thursday parade. Kim is handling this. He spoke and said there will be no Fee, we only need to register the exhibits. We can have multiple entries. Please see him if you are interested. He would like to have a small steam engine on a trailer with the whistle going off. It was brought up that many years ago a steam engine was in the parade, and they did not like all the smoke.

Jim Luper is working on a donation of a buggy. He would like to put it behind the donated plastic horse.

Glen Arnold has picked up a crosscut saw and a hay trolley.

Radios: Norm was asked about pricing on the radios he was working on getting. He needs to know how many we need and gave a price of around \$135 per radio. They will have multiple channels and will probably last around 8-10 years with good care. Jan reported that last year it was \$830 to rent radios from Tel-rad so they would eventually pay for themselves. After discussion it was determined that 35-40 radios would be needed. Norm was instructed to get a quote for 40 radios and bring it back to the board.

Several major projects will be undertaken this year.

1. Widening of the North gate and culvert
  - a. Brandon has talked to Mark about this.
2. Snow engine work towards running on gas.
  - a. Tony will be working with the crew to try and get it running or real close this year.
3. Model toy and post office building
  - a. Todd has all the permits and approvals needed.
  - b. Plans have been drawn up so construction can commence.
4. The refurbished train car is on schedule to possibly be used this year.
5. Many buildings on the grounds need painting, Todd is getting a list together and looking for a painter to get a bid from

The shingle branding crew needs someone to step forward for leadership. Many are retiring and/or just can't do it much longer.

No one has come forward to take over the parking lot. At last month's e board meeting it was approved to hire the Otsego sheriff's mounted posse to work the parking lot. The Kingsley wrestling team will also be helping out. More help is needed, and new leadership needs to step up. Mike W and Jan C will coordinate with them until new leadership is found.

Ideas were proposed at the last e board meeting for the future Machine shop. More planning will take place at the next e board meeting.

The annual committee chair meeting has been sparsely attended the last several years. A majority of the committee heads do not show up and the only thing usually accomplished is the golf cart count. It has been decided to do away with the meeting in the future. Committee chairs are asked to contact their e board contact person with needs.

The Spring Swap Meet will be May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

An e board meeting will be held at 7:00pm on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Barb reported that over 200 members have not paid their dues. After the June meeting the cost will go up to \$15, then \$35 after July.

Tom Graham reported that work on the big train engine will be progressing. Money was approved last year for repairs.

Greg Beerens has secured a donation of 125 RR ties. They will be delivered to the grounds. Spikes are also needed if anyone can help.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm, Submitted by Secretary Mike Woodward