

Northwest Michigan Engine and Thresher Club, Inc.

Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/2/2023

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 Ron Decker (Past President)

Meeting called to order at 7:41pm by President Todd Benson

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Membership.

Opening prayer was given by Sean Emery

There were 2 deaths reported. Paul Belanger and Jan Dunmyer, A moment of silence was held for them.

The following members have been ill last month, Ron Stark and Alex Yonkman. Cards were passed around.

Secretary Mike Woodward read the minutes from the May membership meeting. They were approved as read.

Financial Secretary Barb Hobson reported income of \$3,397.53 for the month of May. \$20,000 was transferred from the Savings to the Checking.

Treasurer Jan Clous reported expenses of \$41,145.35 with an ending checkbook balance of \$4,468.57 as of the end of May. A balance of \$191,868.64 is in the savings.

Member Tom Farnsworth wanted to know why we don't pay sales taxes on materials that the club buys. He feels the club should be paying sales taxes. Treasurer Jan Clous explained the club has a tax-exempt status. Tom disagreed. Both reports were then approved as read.

One new member was reported but not present yet, so Todd moved forward.

Todd informed the membership that Cathy Janik was registering members for camping for show at the East end of the building.

Todd read a list of members who have not paid dues yet for last year and now owe \$45. Todd then read the list of members who have not paid 2023 dues. If not paid tonight it will go up to \$15.

Barb covered the rules for being a life member. She said once you qualify, you must notify her so she can put it into the system.

Calendars are done but not here as Jim is absent.

The metal license plates should be available for the July meeting.

New Member Megan Saval was recognized by the membership.

Promotional books are still available to be distributed. Please take them. It is going good so far with distribution.

The plans for a movie night are progressing. Coordination with the kitchens still needs to be worked out so they can be held here in the Sam Zue. Todd wanted it noted that there will be giveaways NOT raffles as reported in last months minutes. The club cannot hold raffles so any prizes will be free giveaways. Some music events are still being planned.

All the wheat was sprayed, and the rye will be killed off and Oats planted. We will not have rye anymore.

Ham is collecting the blue papers. If you have any personal equipment or items that are staying on the grounds as on loan to the club, please fill out one of the blue forms so it can be put in the book and updated even if you have filled one out in the past. We need new forms filled out.

Kim gave a report on the entries in the Cherry Fest parade. Justin will be putting his Baker in, and Kim will have his International truck. We can have two more entries. It will be Thursday night July 6th.

Carl reported on donations. A John Deere B has been donated. It will be used for the tractor driving school. Some work and upgrades are being done to it. A 12hp Hercules engine was also donated. Mark Labbe has it at his house and is working on it.

133 Railroad ties were donated by the Energy company in McBain. Scott Labbe picked them up and delivered them to the grounds. Todd also has some RR spikes as well.

Todd had a photo available at the front table of a plow that Fritz has in his barn. He is willing to donate it if someone would like to take on the restoration. Talk to Fritz if you are interested.

A plaque made and donated by Timberwolf Creations was displayed. It will be used in the hospitality booth to display items.

Todd was offered a 1989 fire truck by the Buckley fire department. They wanted \$10,000 for it. He did not think the club would want it, so he turned it down.

The board has decided to do a sealed bid auction on some club owned items. The Owners of the donated items would like them sold and the money be put towards the new toy/post office building. There is an Allis B tractor that has oil in the water but could be fixed by the right person. It does roll over and has front tires and a muffler that will go with it. It is by the museum if you want to inspect it. It will have a minimum bid of \$500 as a \$500 offer was already made but the board wanted the membership to have first chance. There is also a Woods mower with a seized-up spindle that will also be sold by sealed bid. If you are interested get your bids to the board by the start of the July meeting.

Todd asked Norm for an update on the radio quote asked for last month. Norm said he wanted confirmation of the number needed. He was told that it was in the minutes that a total of 40 was decided on. He will get a price.

A new committee head list is available for final viewing at the front counter. It will be going to print for approval by the membership. Please make any final changes by tonight.

The swap meet went well, there were many vendors even with the bad weather. Blaine thanked Barb, Ham and Steve for helping him.

Brandon is working with Mark to get the changes to the North gate worked on.

The Snow engine work is progressing towards running on gas.

Todd is having difficulty finding rough sawn lumber for the Toy/Post office building. He went and got a quote on store bought lumber and it came in at \$15,000. All lumber used for buildings on the grounds has to be stamped lumber moving forward. He has had some donations, but we will be coming up short as the original estimated cost for the building was \$7,000. Around \$1600 has been spent on permitting, zoning, and design drawings. Todd figures we will be about \$6,000 short after donations are figured in. Ginger Farnsworth spoke up wanting to know why the club is spending money on a building for items that will be on loan when a new machine shop has not been started yet. Carl said the toys are on loan for 6-7 years and some will probably be donated or left longer. The post office material is club owned. A discussion ensued on building value. Todd said that it was estimated the building will be valued at \$150 to \$200,000 dollars. Tom Farnsworth disputed this value saying he doesn't feel it should be valued at that much since it will be built with club labor. Another member spoke against Tom's view and felt that it would and who builds it doesn't matter in the end value. More discussion ensued. ****Motion Meghan Emery, 2nd Bruce Bosley to approve up to an additional \$8,000 to be allocated for construction of the Toy/Post office building. Yay/Nay show of hands vote passed by majority with around 10 nay votes.**

Pete Labelle reported that railings and rafters will be added to the new passenger train car. Brake work will also be done in the hopes it can be used this year.

The locomotive repairs are progressing as well and there will be a work bee tomorrow.

Carl VanWylen will be working on taking down a donated pole barn tomorrow as well and needs help.

The memorial service was discussed. It was shifted to Wednesday night and is now sparsely attended. It was proposed at the last e-board meeting that it should be moved to Saturday night at 6:00pm so families could attend better. The e board approved this change at the last meeting for this year to see if it helps with attendance. Nelda is not able to engrave the bricks by herself anymore and is looking for a member to volunteer to take over this task. Please see Barb if you can help.

The decision was made to hire the Osceola County Sherriff's posse to oversee the parking of cars at the show. Mike and Jan will be the contacts and will be overseeing the operation. There is also one group, Kingsley wrestling, which will also work as crossing guards.

Todd has a blue ray disk of the Great Western Steam up if anyone is interested in viewing it.

Spectrum was on the grounds for a construction review to bring internet to the grounds. They will be providing an estimate to the club. They are still getting the numbers together as of today per Kim. It could be a substantial cost. Acentek will also be contacted for an estimate. Lisa G said the State may also be offering internet through a rural grant in the future.

A couple of popcorn machines have been offered and Todd has purchased one to be used for the movie nights. He asked if anyone is interested in taking over the hog kettle popcorn display for show. If no one is found the building may be repurposed. Ginger Farnsworth spoke up and said that if it is resumed, she feels it needs to be inspected by the health inspector. Brandon said that it always has been in the past and that is why a special kettle was purchased.

Todd has talked to a couple of people who may be willing to paint on the grounds. If anyone else can help, please talk to Todd.

The camping permit inspection will happen sometime in June.

The following committees will have work bees tomorrow: Train Engine, Train Car, building cleaning, Snow engine, and the toy building will start soon.

There will be an e-board meeting on June 16th at 7:00pm in the Sam Zue

Ronda Stark spoke up, the walkway at the sound booth has many rotting boards and will need to be repaired before the show.

Steve Scott announced that the power will now be on for the remainder of the summer.

The garbage contract is being worked on by Brandon.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm, Submitted by Secretary Mike Woodward