

Northwest Michigan Engine and Thresher Club, Inc.

Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/6/2023

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)

An announcement was made at 7:20 that the polls would be closing in 10 Minutes for the 2023 board elections.

Meeting called to order at 7:33pm by President Todd Benson and he announced that the polls for the election were now closed. He welcomed everyone in attendance. Ron Decker and the selected vote counters went to the Kitchen to count the election ballots.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Membership and an opening prayer was given.

There were no deaths reported.

Tom Graham was reported as being ill.

Todd updated the membership on the progression of the proposed machine shop. Site plans were made available prior to tonight's meeting. Todd read the proposal and conditions made by Jim Dunmeyer for his proposed donation to the club for the shop. In it he offered up to \$86,000 towards the construction of the machine shop conditional on his preferred location next to the Weber barn and his specifications for the barn read by Todd. Todd informed the membership that the e board had determined that the membership should vote on it and that paper ballots were going to be passed out. All voters were to vote on the ****Motion to accept or deny the requirements presented by Mr. Dunmeyer with either a Yes vote if they accepted the donation with the presented conditions and location or No if they did not accept, which would result in withdrawal of the donation.** Paper ballots were passed out for a Yes/No vote.

Boots for kids' donation buckets were passed among the membership. After collection a total of \$400 was collected.

Secretary Mike Woodward read the minutes from the September membership meeting. They were approved as read with one notation, the friend of Scott Labe who took the engine to the UP show is a member.

Financial Secretary Barb Hobson reported income of \$28,969.13 for the month of September.

Treasurer Jan Clous reported expenses of \$101,485.94 with an ending checkbook balance of \$147,635.10 as of the end of September and a savings balance of \$111,949.14. Both reports were approved as read.

The results of the vote on the machine shop motion were announced with **125 votes Yes, 9 votes No.** The Motion passed by majority. After the announcement, a discussion on the color of the building was had.

****Motion by Bev Barber, 2nd Pat Dummer to make the machine shop similar to the Weber barn and that they be numbered like other buildings. Yes/No vote passed unanimously.**

The following were welcomed as new members by the membership. Kathleen Behrens, John Bohrer, Logan DeKorte, Michael DeKorte, Timothy Fraley, Rick and Mary Hartzell, John Kammens, Tony Martin, Lelie Wilson, Keith Keil, James Gauthier, and Matthew Place.

Scott Labbe wanted it to put on the record that the club's 2hp United type A motor that was taken to Escanaba will be at Mike Marsinki's house for the winter.

At the end of next week, Dutchman will be taking care of the club crops. Wheat seed has been purchased.

A reminder was given to please pay your 2024 club dues.

Carl VanWylen reported on donations; Nick Letterly donated a snow blower, two diesel engines are being considered, old farm equipment will be looked at, and the building at Wagoner farms has been cleaned out of the items donated.

The pump had to be replaced on the well by the woodshop. That well is needed so repairs were made.

Scholarship applications are due to Ron Decker by November 1st. Active youth members will be given first consideration.

Letters from Lissa Gulliver and Kathy Janick were reviewed by the e board at their last meeting concerning the entrance gates. They both made suggestions and comments on the gates, passes, car passes and items they felt needed review and tweaking before next year.

Generator hours were also discussed at the last e board meeting. It was felt that standardization was necessary, and it was decided that a 10:00pm curfew for generators should be observed at all times of the year including pre-show, during show, and after show. The only exception would be the designated all night generator area by the old tree farm.

It was also decided at that meeting that bicycles should not be used anywhere on the grounds from the Sunday before the show until the afternoon of the Sunday show closing due to the amount of traffic on the grounds.

All campers must be moved off the grounds within one week of show closing as the show campground permit expires. Only member campers will be allowed to remain in the member campgrounds.

All the comments received by the board concerning the Osceola Sherriff Posse in the parking lot were positive. The general consensus is that the relationship should be maintained in the future, and they be invited back to run the parking lot again.

A request was made to the board by the railroad. They asked for a budget of \$8,600 to rebuild the red passenger car like the new one. They felt it was a safety issue. The e-board approved the requested amount as a maintenance and safety item. The committee also requested help from the membership so if anyone can volunteer, please see them.

The small garage at the old caretaker house has been cleaned out and re-organized as approved by the club for storage of the club mowers and equipment. Shelving was moved to the old red woodstove building and the bolts and parts are now organized there.

Jim Luper reported the donation and movement of the small-scale train cars has been put on hold.

Education days went very well, enough volunteers showed up to make it happen. More member support is needed in the future. It is a fun event to work.

Calendars are on sale for \$10 and 50th books are also available. See Jim Luper.

A request was made by the Tractor driving school committee to purchase more tractors. They found some but it was decided to hold off on a purchase. It was decided that a request be put out to the membership for other options in the hope that someone might have a tractor to donate or loan to the club for use by the school before a purchase is made. They would like to have two more available for use.

Todd had a sawmill and parts offered to the club for purchase at scrap price. A cost of \$350-\$500 was proposed as a purchase price. Tom Graham told Todd that he felt the club could use it. The parts were brought to the grounds for the sawmill crew to look over. ****Motion Paul Raffel, 2nd Ron Bancroft to authorize Todd to offer \$350 to the owner for the equipment. Yes/No vote passed unanimously.**

It was brought to the board's attention that there seems to be an issue with new members sponsoring other new members. It is in the by-laws that you have to be a member for three years before you can sponsor another new member or run for the e-board. It has also been an unwritten rule that you also have to be a member for three years to be a committee chair, but it has never been put into writing. It was proposed that it needs to be put in writing as a rule or procedure for clarification.

Larry Clous requested authorization from the board to spend \$3,000 to purchase cedar for the shingle mill. The board gave him approval at the last e board meeting.

Pete Label addressed the membership to inform them that the wood that is cut and stored in the steamer parking area is for use by the steam tractors. It is being taken for camping and should not be.

GFL finally came to empty and remove their dumpsters but also took the club owned dumpsters. Two have been brought back but Brandon is working on getting the others back.

The meeting was adjourned to a closed E board meeting while waiting for election results at 8:45pm

The meeting was called back to order at 9:03pm for election results.

Ron Decker announced the following counts for the election:

President- Blain Tarrant 152, Todd Benson 111. Blain will be the new President for 2024

Vice President- Kim Yancich 142, Steve Scott 121. Kim retains his seat as Vice President.

Secretary- Mike Woodward 218, write in votes, Ginger Farnsworth 15, Paula Tarrant 1. Mike retains his seat as Secretary.

Financial Secretary- Barb Hobson 234, write in votes, Paula Tarrant 1, Alex Yonkman 4. Barb retains her seat as Financial Secretary

Treasurer- Jan Clous 247, no write ins, Jan retains her seat as Treasurer.

Trustee- Larry Clous 205, Ham Hobson 185, Scott Labbe 107. Larry and Ham retain their seats as Trustee.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm, Secretary Mike Woodward

