

Northwest Michigan Engine and Thresher Club, Inc.

Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: 5/6/2022

Time: 7:30pm

Place: Sam Zue Building

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

Meeting called to order at 7:36pm by President Todd Benson

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Membership and Opening prayer was given by Pastor Hewlett

There were 2 deaths reported. Mike Winters and Doug Murphy, A moment of silence was held.

Mike Strange and Jim Dunmyer were reported as ill. Cards were passed around.

Secretary Mike Woodward read the minutes from the April membership meeting. President Benson asked that the following corrections be made; The cost for a house mover to move the schoolhouse found near Greenville by Steve Scott was \$35,000 to \$45,000 not \$30,000 as reported. Also, the building proposed by Ham Hobson for the post office and toys was 26x40 with partial block walls, the building proposed by Todd and Nate was also 26x40 and all wood. Wood has been donated and money has been donated for that building. It was also noted that Ron Decker was not in attendance at the November meeting and was noted as present. **** Motion by Tom Barber, 2nd by Ron Stark to accept the April minutes with the noted corrections. Yay/Nay vote passed unanimously.**

Financial Secretary Barb Hobson reported income of \$2,525.99 for the month of April.

Treasurer Jan Clous reported expenses of \$1,260.60 with an ending checkbook balance of \$39,902.32 as of the end of April with a savings balance of \$172,915.94.

Both reports were approved as read

Joseph Okhuysen and his son Cash were welcomed as new members by the Pastor and the membership. New prospective members were asked to meet in the kitchen after the meeting.

President Todd Benson addressed the membership. He said that since the October election meeting there have been many issues that have created a divide in the membership. He asked that everyone try to put it all behind us and start working together and above all have fun. August is right around the corner.

Jim Luper now has the new calendars. They are for sale for \$10.00.

The promotional books arrived yesterday and are in the corner by the front door. Different paper had to be used because of material shortages. Due to a mistake only two days of the show were listed on the front cover. It was caught on the first proof and was fixed. When it was pulled from the file and re-sent to the printer the wrong copy, the original was sent so the mistake made it into the book. Todd told the membership that he will take responsibility for the mistake as it was not a mistake by the printer. It was felt that most people will figure it out as it is too late to fix now as many books were sent out to the MDOT welcome centers already.

Mike Woodward has been working on creating a numbering system and map for all the campsites on the grounds as the health department asked for. He is almost done.

The wheat crop was fertilized by the tree cutting company. The rye was not as it probably will be turned under. Brandon is taking care of it. The crops will be sprayed for weeds soon.

If you have not paid your 2022 dues, please get it to Chris Decker. They are still \$5 until after the June meeting then dues are scheduled to go up.

Carl VanWylen reported only a few small donations such as a finish mower and possibly a ditch witch. The zero-turn mower was sold and may need to be replaced in the future.

Barb will be sending out information to the schools soon and we will see if enough schools respond to make it worth having education days.

The horse pull association that has been coming to our show has disbanded. Todd has talked to other pulling associations but there are two other pulls that same week that pay \$9,000 and \$4,500. We only pay a \$2500 purse. More investigation will be done. Some might possibly come to ours, but it is not guaranteed. Todd asked the membership for their opinion on whether the club should raise our purse to draw another group. The consensus by show of hand was No. Jan and Larry Clous have handled it the last few years but will not be able to continue. They will train someone else if they want to take it over. Barb reported that when she asks people coming in what they are coming to see, more people report they are coming for the music events than the horse pull. The horse pull has been very well attended for the last several years with all five sets of bleachers full and many golf carts parked around with people on them. ****Motion by Ron Stark, 2nd Blaine Tarrant to leave the purse at \$2500 and see if we can find another organization to come. Yay/Nay vote passed unanimously.**

Ron Stark asked for the floor. He said when members pass away the club puts aside \$25 for a donation to boots for kids. He would like to propose that money instead be put towards buying and planting trees on the grounds in memory of the passed members. He then volunteered to water them and tend to them until they take good root. **Motion Ron Stark, 2nd Jim Gelinis to put the \$25 for each member who passes away into a fund for trees instead of putting it towards boots for kids.** Discussion: Barb Hobson said that it would probably be around \$200 per tree. We may not be able to do it each year. It was also proposed that the club would have to develop a master plan on where the trees would go as the club can't just plant them anywhere. They would have to be put in places easy to mow around or where they won't need to be moved at a later date for expansions. It was felt that the money could be put in a fund and held until a plan is devised. **** A show of hands vote was called for, 53 yay, 4 nays, motion passed.**

Summer projects:

1. A new entry gate for members, vendors and exhibitors has been proposed. The board met before the last meeting to go over the plan. The current flea market entrance road will be widened, the fence moved back, and the drive widened at the road. It will widen at the gate with vendors and pre-paid members using the right side and exhibitors using the left. A new building will be constructed for the camper and exhibitor registration replacing what used to take place at the old caretaker house garage. It will make more room to get campers, equipment trailers etc. off the road quicker. The East gate will be exit only from 7:00am to 9:00pm, with only pedestrians and golf carts being allowed to enter. After 9:00pm until 7:00am it will be the night gate for entry and exit. The board has given their approval for the project. An outside contractor may be used for the excavating if needed. **** Motion**

by Jim Luper, 2nd Blain Tarrant to give the board permission to proceed with the project as soon as possible. Yay/Nay vote taken Motion passed with 1 nay vote.

2. Town hall roof replacement. Todd has bids from outside contractors:
 - a. Shingle tear off and replacement \$13,250 with OSB replacement labor at \$65 per hour and OSB materials as an extra cost if needed
 - b. Standing seam hidden fastener metal roof with 1x4 and bubble wrap over the existing shingles \$14,500 complete
 - c. Pole barn steel with 1x4 and a vapor barrier over existing shingles \$8,800 complete
 - d. Standing seam steel hidden fastener with NO 1x4 over the existing shingles \$9,300
 - e. Pole barn steel with NO 1x4 over existing roof \$6,200

After discussion on the advantages and disadvantages of all the options, ****Motion Vance Webster, 2nd Lan Bridson to authorize the project to proceed with the \$14,500 bid for Standing seam hidden fasteners with 1x4 and bubble wrap. Yay/Nay vote passed unanimously.**

3. Snow Engine, Money was authorized last fall for Tony to proceed with several projects to move forward with getting the engine running on propane. Concrete is planned for pads and burying of tanks for cooling.
4. Railroad repair, Ties will be replaced, 128 have been donated by the same company as last year. Coal will need to be purchased. Tom Graham has a supplier at around \$250 a ton.
5. Post office project, what size building and other items need to be finalized. Todd has a lead on some 24' trusses.
6. Scale model building, A model is available to view of the 26x40 building proposed. Todd has many donations of wood; The club sawmill is capable of firing up to process it over the summer. He feels it will cost around \$6000 +/- ****Motion Ron Stark, 2nd Tom Barber to move forward with the toy building project with a \$7000 cap on cost. Yay/Nay vote taken. Motion passed by majority with 3 nay votes.**
7. Replacement of the railroad passenger car is progressing. Black Locust logs are available to be cut for the deck. Steve Scott has brought buss seats. Windows on the antique coach need replacement.
8. A lean-to addition 16x80 to the machinery museum has been proposed by Todd Benson. He estimates that it will cost around \$10,000, \$20,000 to do both sides. It would have 6x6 posts and a steel roof. The roof on the existing building would also be repaired. A member spoke up that money is being proposed for new projects and there are other projects like the machine shop that were proposed before and already have donations set aside for them. Why are we planning this before that is even discussed? Todd said the machine shop needs to be looked at, but the proposed building is too large for what the club needs. The plans need to be discussed and paired down to a smaller building. Mike W spoke up and proposed that we see where we are at with all the maintenance projects and the new gate project before we allocate all our funds.
9. The harness shop and barber shop porches as well as the big train ticket depot need roof repairs. The existing cedar shingles are bad. Todd estimates we will need \$1200 for the harness shop, \$580 for the barber shop, and \$2200 for the complete depot roof to be fixed with period correct standing seam metal. ****Motion Tom Barber, 2nd Mike W to approve \$4,000 to fix the three roofs on front street with the proposed materials. Yay/Nay vote passed unanimously.**

It proposed to the board that the club should consider switching propane suppliers. Stevens has been sold to an out of state company. It will be talked about at the next open e board meeting.

Locking barrels for the pop can collecting during show were lined up but they are no longer available. If anyone knows where replacements can be found, please let Todd know. We need 10 more.

Specs are needed for the boards for the replacement passenger car decking discussed earlier. Black locust is available and needs to be picked up in Mesick. It was noted that they need 2x6 boards 10' long.

The board has approved a plan to extend the handicap parking area to the south approximately 107' to the line that is in the Pines Camping area. The board will meet with both committees to discuss how to proceed.

The parking lot committee is retiring from their positions after the 2022 show. New chairpersons will be needed.

Some equipment will need to be rented over the summer by the club for various projects. A man lift and a crane will be needed. The board suggests that other projects that could use these pieces of equipment coordinate their projects to minimize costs such as the moving of the cabooses to the new siding.

Barb has pictures of the owl release that happened on the grounds available for viewing on the big white board.

The swap meet will be Friday the 20th and Saturday the 21st. The gates will be opened on Thursday for set up.

There will be a closed e board meeting on the 20th at 7:00pm in the club house

The annual Committee chair meeting will be Saturday May 21st at 1:00pm in the Sam Zue. All committee chairs are asked to attend. There will be an open e board meeting following if necessary.

Maintenance on the club house is needed. The siding is bad in many areas and windows are in bad shape.

There will be a work bee tomorrow at 9 am for the railroad.

No potluck lunches will be available this year for the work bees due to not having enough volunteers.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Submitted by Secretary Mike Woodward