

Northwest Michigan Engine and Thresher Club, Inc.

Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: 9/9/2022

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, Carl VanWylen, Ham Hobson, Steve Scott, Jim Luper Ron Decker (Past President)

Meeting called to order at 7:37pm by President Todd Benson

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

There was 1 death reported. Geraldine Eaton, A moment of silence was held for her.

The following members were reported as ill, Duane Gulliver, Curtis Post, and Paul Bellinger. Cards were passed around.

President Benson read thank you cards from Ken & Sandy Hedges and The Railroad Historical Society.

Todd reported Show revenue of \$47,000 for Thursday, \$66,908 for Friday, \$84,904 for Saturday and \$41,873 for Sunday, combined with other miscellaneous income from show giving the club a grand total of \$256,242

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

Financial Secretary Barb Hobson reported income of \$272,244.88 for the month of August.

Treasurer Jan Clous reported expenses of \$152,543.73 with an ending checkbook balance of \$170,001.78 as of the end of August. The savings balance was \$116,708.36. Jan reported that some money from the checking would be moved to the savings.

Both reports were approved as read

Todd reported that absentee ballots for the October board elections were being handled by Barb Hobson and Jan Clous. Please get you name and address to them if you want an absentee ballot. The Deadline is September 25th. You can also e mail them or call.

Now new members were brought in this month but there were 3 prospects.

The Sheriff reported that during show there were no major incidents, just a few small items were dealt with.

The Fire report showed 16 calls on the grounds with no transports to the hospital.

All in all, it was a very safe year with very few problems.

Jim has the new calendars for sale for \$10 and there are still 50th books for sale.

Blaine and Paula Tarrant took their trailer to the Claire welcome center. All went well with a great turn out. It ran all day. Many of the ad books were given out and they asked for more books next year. Over 2000 were given out.

The show campground inspection went well. The new inspector asked for a few things for next year. She asked for more signage of the campground numbers and the hose at the dump station needs to be raised off the ground. She did the inspection of the member campground as well.

The temporary show campground has expired. That means that all campers must be moved into the two permanent member campground sections.

Security Sanitation did an excellent job this year. Most everyone reported that the privies were kept clean.

The big train will be looked at tomorrow and a plan to get it fixed for next year will be formed. Tom Graham reported that it should be ready for 2023 show.

Tom Graham reported that they could not plow in the lower field. It needs to be worked in. He suggested having a plow day so the smaller plows and tractors could plow it. It also needs to be sprayed for weeds. A plan is being worked on for a plow day, Jim Luper said he was approached by the local IHC chapter who wants to do a plow day during our spring swap meet.

Todd reported that there are two wagons with straw bales available for sale to the membership for \$2.00 a bale.

Brandon has a plan for wheat seed for the crop planting.

Your 2023 dues are payable. Please pay them as soon as possible to Barb or Jan. There is a bucket at the end of the table to put them in.

Todd reported that the dues fees are going to be looked at by the board. It has been proposed to them that dues should be raised.

The new north gate entry worked pretty well. A few small changes have been suggested and will be looked at by the board. Jim reported that he had good responses from the exhibitors.

The roof on the town hall is completed. There are a few small bump outs that Todd would like to cover with the same steel used to match the new. He feels the club could do those.

Snow Engine: Tony was allotted a \$10,000 budget this year. Many things were completed towards getting it running on gas. Tony feels it would probably take another \$10,000 budget for 2023 to get it really close to completion. He reported that during the work on the engine there have been no major injuries.

Todd reported that some tweaks need to be made to the blueprints for the scale model building.

Steamer wood and coal was found just before show. Tom feels since the big train did not run that there should be plenty for next year.

They will be working on the new flat car this weekend and it is getting close to needing the deck put on.

Todd reported that the snowmobile and motorcycle groups were very happy with how the show went and the turnout at their exhibits.

The movie night in the Sam Zue went well but was not attended very well. It was felt that it was not advertised as well as it should have been, and it should be given another try next year.

The special music programs went well, were very well attended all nights.

The roof projects on Front Street turned out very well and look good. The Necessities building roof still needs work as well as the steam building and museum.

Jim Luper spoke about Education days. This will be the 21st year. He did a role call of exhibit areas for who was going to be open this year. The morning meetings will be at 8:30am. Barb said she has 6 schools for Wednesday with 9 groups and 6 schools for Thursday with 15 groups. A potluck will be held at 3:30 both days for members.

We had no popcorn during show this year. The people who did it in the past will not be back. If anyone wants to take it over, please let the board know.

The small train took over 1800 people on rides during show which is probably one of the best years for them.

Many people liked the speeder rides this year. They were a good attraction when the train went down. There were some safety issues that will need to be dealt with in the future.

Barb Hobson and Jan Clous will be taking over the membership duties from Chris Decker. Todd thanked Chris for her many years of service. Please get your membership in as soon as possible.

Cory Wall has offered the big loader that has been on the grounds for many years for sale to the club for \$25,000. At last month's meeting He let the club table the sale until after show. Steve Scott feels that it is a very good deal, and the club should purchase it. ****Motion Tom Farnsworth, 2nd Tony Suykerbuyk to purchase the loader for the proposed \$25,000.** Discussion by the membership. Some felt that we need a new Wrangler size loader first. Todd said that a new one is available for around \$78,000 on a 0% interest loan. **A Yay/Nay vote was called for on the current motion, Passed Unanimously.** Todd said the board will discuss a new smaller loader in the future.

It was proposed to the E board by Norm and Steve that the Historical Construction Equipment Association from Ohio would like to have their convention at our show next year. Norm Schutte spoke about them, he is a member of that organization as well. He said that they have a convention on their grounds every three years and in the interim two years they travel to a host site. He would like them to come to us next year as they currently do not have a site. It could bring in an additional 3000-4000 people as well as the members. They bring in big machinery. There was much discussion and questions by many board members who reviewed the requirement sheet sent to them by Norm. Some of the issues where, They require 3 acres of area to display and work in, they must do a construction project, they require a cut of the take of the show, area to park many tractor trailers, a meeting place, and enclosed space of big size for their vendors and a place to have a banquet that requires an alcohol license. It was estimated that it would require a monetary commitment of between \$5,000 to \$10,000. After much discussion it was determined that our club could not handle that size of an event by next years show. It was felt that maybe sometime in the future if we could have a couple of years to plan it, it may be possible. The event was tabled.

Next months meeting will be the election and fall potluck. Voting will start at 5:30pm and the potluck will begin at 6:30pm.

Scholarship applications are due to Ron Decker by November 1st.

Barb reported that October and November buckets will be passed for boots for kids.

A closed E board meeting will be held at 5:00pm on Thursday the 22nd after education days. An open meeting will follow.

Todd reported that Ron Decker will help with the elections this year. It will probably be his last. At the May meeting it was discussed what to do if the Past President can not oversee the election. It was determined that a by-law change would be necessary to change the procedure. It will be discussed and a vote on a by-law change will probably be forthcoming. As stated earlier, Barb and Jan will be handling the absentee ballots. Ron will line up the ballot counters.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned to form a slate of candidates for the October election at 9:10pm

Ron Decker took the floor to create a slate of electors. He announced the following candidates had contacted him with intent to run for positions.

President: Todd Benson and Kerry Urka.

Nominations from the floor were opened, with none being present the nominations for President were closed.

Vice President: Kim Yancich

Nominations from the floor were opened, with none being present the nominations for Vice President were closed.

Secretary: Mike Woodward

Nominations from the floor were opened, with none being present the nominations for Secretary were closed.

Financial Secretary: Barb Hobson

Nominations from the floor were opened, with none being present the nominations for Financial Secretary were closed.

Treasurer: Jan Clous

Nominations from the floor were opened, with none being present the nominations for Treasurer were closed.

Trustee (2 positions open): Brandon Jenkins, Steve Scott, Blain Tarrant

Nominations from the floor were opened, with none being present the nominations for Trustee were closed.

****Motion Bill Meyers, 2nd Ron Stark to close all nominations and finalize the slate of electors with the above candidates. Yay/Nay vote passed unanimously.**

All candidates were invited to speak on their own behalf. After all candidates were given the chance to speak, it was announced that voting will begin at 5:30pm and close at the meeting start at 7:30pm on October 9th, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm, Submitted by Secretary Mike Woodward