

Northwest Michigan Engine and Thresher Club, Inc.

Committee Chair Meeting Minutes

Date: 8/23/2024

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Sam Zue Building

Executive board members present: Blain Tarrant, Kim Yancich, Kelley VanAlstine, Barb Hobson, Janice Clous, Larry Clous, Lisa Gulliver, Brandon Jenkins, Ham Hobson, Jim Luper, Greg Thon Todd Benson (Past President)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm by President Blain Tarrant

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

*Open Floor:

- Blain reported that, despite the weather, the 2024 show was a success. Approximately \$54,000 was taken in on Thursday, \$55,000 on Friday, \$80,000 on Saturday, and \$40,000 on Sunday for a total of \$229,000.
- Pete Labelle reported that the throttle is leaking/ blowing steam on the train. This caused the train to be shut down before the end of the show on Sunday. Steve Scott and Jeff Gunnett have volunteered to help with repairs.
- Dan Dienes shared that he is drawing up blueprints for the consideration of more construction projects for added safety around the train tracks and shuttle driving area. He also expressed interest in fixing the firebox on the steamroller and getting it operational again.
- Mark Guest gave an update on the Spirit of Traverse City train. There were issues with some derailments of the yellow car during the show. The wheels are worn and need to be reworked.
- Kathy Williams shared her concerns of some safety issues with the parking lot and pedestrians walking down the road to avoid the mud in the parking area during the show. Safety cones were used to reconfigure the parking lot to avoid the muddiest areas created from the rains and heavy traffic.
- Bill Myers stated that everything went well at the East Gate during the show.
- Paul Raffel reported that 10,225 guests rode the train during the show this year.
- Chris Grouix spoke on behalf of the gas engines committee. He suggested a small building be available at the North Gate to be used as a storage area for all of their materials. He also expressed concern about how to handle family members coming in during the show after exhibits have been registered and set up. There is an increasing problem with exhibitor entries and covering all of the costs associated with being an exhibitor.
- Bill Fenton requested more room for the threshing demonstration.
- David VanAlstine shared that there were a few mechanical issues with some of the handicap golf carts but they were dealt with quickly by the rental company. He thinks we need to fine tune some of the rules of where the handicap shuttles should be running and who we should be servicing.
- Several members expressed their concerns of too many vehicles still driving through the showgrounds during the show, even after putting up signs, barriers and making many

announcements over the sound system. There was much discussion about stricter enforcement for next year's show.

- Ron Stark spoke about some updating that needs done on the sound system. The new technology of cell phones causes interference with our microphones. The speakers need to be updated. He expressed concerns over announcement etiquette and vendors. He doesn't think we should be making announcements for some vendors and not others. The fence and sidewalk in front of the sound booth need some repairs. He also shared that allowing members to get their membership bracelets on Tuesday before the show worked well this year and he plans to do the same again next year.
- There was a lengthy discussion about drawing finer lines of what is allowed as an exhibit on the showgrounds. Some exhibitors are registering their exhibits without anyone seeing them first. More and more exhibits are being modified and don't meet the original criteria of the show. Garden tractors are becoming a problem as well. They are being used as a form of transportation from the camping areas instead of being parked as an exhibit, causing traffic congestion during show time. Also, under age drivers are becoming more prevalent.
- Brandon Jenkins strongly believes that we should be charging exhibitors the same as everyone else to attend the show. Some exhibitors are taking advantage of the club and using anything they can as an exhibit to get into the show at no cost. He stated that our costs to put on the show continue to increase every year. The larger steam shows throughout the country charge for everyone and many in attendance feel we should follow their example.
- Kelly Green shared that he had a good crew and everything went well in the sawmill during the show. He said the Anderson engine needs a little bit of maintenance. Elmer Monroe will be taking some parts home to work on them.
- The South Pines campground stated that they cannot hear announcements over the sound system. It was suggested adding a speaker to the Webber Building facing in the south direction.
- Karen Oeverman gave an update on the flea market. There were a couple of children who got lost this year. A system is in the works on how to help with this for next year. Colored poles at the ends of the flea market rows and some sort of lockdown procedure was discussed. Some of the row signs were damaged and need to be replaced.
- Steve Scott shared that everything went well in the steam building. He will need to purchase some more propane for education days.
- Larry Clous expressed how well the shingle branding went this year and thanked the new members who stepped up to help.
- Gloria Ockert requested accurate information of members who have passed, such as correct spelling of the name and date of death. This is needed for the engraving on the memorial bricks which is a time consuming project.
- Todd March gave an update on the success of the Soda Fountain's first year in operation. They sold out of the souvenir mugs on Friday afternoon. Moomers Ice Cream out of Traverse City would like to partner with the soda fountain next year. Todd took notes of what went well and what can be improved upon for next year.

*Committee Chair Head Updates:

- Blain handed out new forms to committee heads to be filled out. The club would like to have a detailed step by step job description of what is done in different areas on the showgrounds.

This will help members, new and old, to know what would be required of them in each area and help them determine what committee would meet their interests and abilities to work.

- Cathy Janik and Verna Murowski will be stepping down from their duties at the North Gate. New chair heads will be needed.
- Holding area/transportation area needs a new chair head.
- Liz Cunningham won't be at the East Gate anymore.
- Machinery Sand Box has some members interested in taking over this area.
- The roaming worker committee needs a new chair head.
- A member is needed to put up signs before the show and take them down after.
- Sean and Megan Emery are stepping down as membership committee heads. Lesa Rice will be taking over this committee.
- Sean Emery will be staying on as Chaplain and David VanAlstine will co-chair with him.
- Blain will check with Pastor Charles Hewlitt to see if he wants to be removed from the committee.
- The Gas Engines Set Up committee will be dissolved. It is no longer needed.
- Dave Langdon needs a co-chair for the antique car display.

*Final Discussion-

Ginger Farnsworth shared that metal poles were put up to keep people from driving in the first row of the flea market where the produce is located. Ham Hobson volunteered to make some barriers that could be moved in the event of an emergency. He also stated that there needs to be barriers at the back of the train track in the fire lane as well. People are driving through this area and it is not safe.

There was discussion concerning the conversations on Facebook talking negatively about the show on Sunday. Guests don't feel they are getting to experience the whole show when vendors and exhibitors leave early. This has been an ongoing problem. There will be further discussion and sharing of ideas on how we might be able to alleviate this problem in the future.

Gloria Ockert spoke on behalf of her committee and several others. She thanked Blain for his involvement with all of the committees and making his presence known throughout the show. It was noticed and greatly appreciated.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Kelley VanAlstine,

Secretary

