

# Northwest Michigan Engine and Thresher Club, Inc.

## Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

**Date: June 7, 2024**

**Time: 7:30 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 7:31pm by President Blain Tarrant.

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

There were five deaths reported. Christine Blackledge, Linda Manor, Halcyone Brown, Claude Page, and Carol Nieuwbeerta. A moment of silence was held for them.

The following members were reported as having been ill. Francine Baetz, Clare Porter, Tara Stepes, Norma Hilbrandt and Tom Barber. Cards were available to sign at the front entrance.

Blain introduced the new secretary Kelley VanAlstine. She will replace Mike Woodward until elections. Blain announced that moving forward, the meetings will be recorded by Kelley and erased after the minutes have been compiled. This is to help ensure the minutes are as accurate as possible.

Secretary Kelley VanAlstine read the minutes from the May membership meeting which were compiled by previous secretary, Mike Woodward. Ham Hobson requested changes to the minutes to keep in line with our 501C3 Non-profit status. **\*\*Motion by Bill Myers to accept the revisions to the minutes as presented by Ham Hobson. 2nd by Norm Schuette. Yea/Nay vote passed by majority.**

An additional correction to the minutes in reference to the offer from Glen Seagraves to sell a belt lacer to the club for \$2000 was noted. The correct amount was \$1200. The lacer has been purchased.

Financial Secretary Barb Hobson reported income of \$8514.85 for the month of May.

Treasurer Jan Clous reported expenses of \$41,174.84 with an ending checkbook balance of \$104,505.07, \$11,979.60 in savings, and \$100,639.41 in the money market as of May 31, 2024. **\*\*Motion by Paul Raffel to accept the financial reports as read, 2nd by Ron Stark. Motion carried.**

Blain read thank you notes from Sally Sullivan, Amelia Holzschu, and Will Gullekson in response to the scholarship money they received from the club.

The following were welcomed as new members by the membership: Lea Boman, David and Jessie Bosley, Margie Czuprinski, Duke Elsner, Bill Greenhoe and Lindy Sanborn. Sean reminded those in attendance that July is the last meeting to sign up as a new working member for the 2024 show.

Carl VanWylen reported there are no new donations to the club right now. There is still a pump organ that is of no use to the club and needs to be adopted.

Pete LaBelle gave an update on the state of the railroad. He shared that an outside contractor came in and we are waiting on quotes. He knows it won't be cheap. He's been gathering information to create a 5-10 year plan to keep the train running. Work is still being done on the restoration of the red RR car. Several members have helped with new beams and a new deck, The goal is to have it in service for the show. Work will be done on the railings at the next build date which will be the second week in July, Thursday through Saturday, for any members that would like to help.

Blain stated that the Pettibone has been serviced by Steve Scott and is back up and going. It is better but it's fragile and running on borrowed time. Due to the state of the transmission, it can only be used for lifting and no more pushing.

Steve Scott reported on the status of the backhoe. It has many broken, frozen and worn out parts. Steve and Chad Furrow have been rebuilding it, hoping to get working again.

The oil in the Allis Chalmers needs changed. Steve Scott and Bill Fenton will see that it gets done.

Some mowing on the grounds has been done. The Pines Campground still needs to be mowed.

The Toybox still needs some work done to complete it. Carl VanWylen said the roof, siding and walkway need finished. Ham Hobson said we have the materials to

complete the walkway from the barbershop all the way to the general store. Volunteers are needed to help with these projects.

The flooring for the Post Office is ready also. It just needs to be installed.

Jim Luper shared the strong need for help at the North Gate used by exhibitors and vendors, as it is very busy. They need help before and during the show. Lisa Gulliver stated that we need help at all of the show gates. The east gate is used by members and musicians and the south gate (Lisa's gate) is used by the public and camping. Members were asked to volunteer at these gates when they can to give the others working there a break.

Tony Suykerbuyk requested that the flyers for the Snow Engine get printed. They need more than they had last year.

Jan Clous reminded members who have asked for reimbursements to please cash the checks she has sent out. The checks must be cashed within 60 days.

Blain shared that we are still waiting on some quotes for some steel work, painting and concrete. We will have to prioritize the projects according to need. He asked the members to have any contractors they might know which are in need of work to contact him.

The Eboard feels that a committee needs to be formed to help Carl VanWylen with club donations. This will be a small, two person committee to review and make recommendations on keeping or selling donations to the club. This committee would have Eboard oversight. There will be a system of checks and balances put into place.  
**\*\*Motion by Bill Myers to form a Donations Committee with two committee chairs, 2nd by Ron Stark. Yea/Nay vote passed by majority with one nay vote.**

Please continue to take the show advertising books and disperse them.

The club received an email from the Maritime Alliance in Traverse City. They have a few antique boat engines for sale. If interested, please see the their flyer for contact information.

Larry Clous has requested some branches around the perimeter of the Pines Campground be cut and removed. They are overgrown and are obstructing the posts that hold the "Fire Lane" signs for the show.

Jan Clous inquired as to when the hay would be cut. Ron Bancroft will get with Greg and Wayne Bancroft and have them contact Blain.

Membership dues that have not been paid after this meeting will acquire a late fee. Please check the posting on the board if you are unsure if you've paid.

Kim has some golf cart forms for those that have requested them.

Steve Scott has requested a manlift to get some of the electrical service going on the grounds. Ham will look into getting one rented.

Carl VanWylen inquired about any DTE energy updates. Blain will talk with Todd Benson about the status.

Pete LaBelle reminded the members that the firewood near the steam engine area that is split and slabbed is for steam engine use only. There is a farm wagon full of scrap wood that is free for the taking.

Tony reported that the wheat is coming in thin and not of very good quality this year. A local farm neighbor has offered to donate wheat for the show's use.

The meeting for the month of July will be Friday, July 12, due to the holiday.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Kelley VanAlstine

