

Northwest Michigan Engine and Thresher Club, Inc.

Final Version Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: July 12, 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 7:30pm by President Blain Tarrant.

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

There were four deaths reported. James Storm, Cathy from the Buckley KOA Campground, Jerry Bradley and Jerry Eaton. A moment of silence was held for them.

The following members were reported as having been ill. Tara Steffes, Norma Hilbrandt, Larry Adams, Neal Yarick and Marion Raymond. Lisa gave an update on Duane and Sue Gulliver. They are both back at the assisted living facility. Kelly and Lorraine Green are recovering from a car accident. Cards were available to sign at the front entrance.

Blain shared with the members that Mike Woodward made a request to address the board at the last eBoard meeting. During the closed session of the meeting Mike spoke to the board. Everyone is on good terms and we are moving forward. Blain thanked Mike for his nine years of service as the club secretary.

Secretary Kelley VanAlstine read the minutes from the June membership meeting. There were two corrections to the minutes. It was announced by Sean Emery that July is the last meeting to join and be able to work at the show, not June and secondly, Carl VanWylen inquired about DTE updates, not Carl Bancroft. ****Motion by Dan Ockert to accept the minutes as amended. 2nd by Lan Bridson. Yea/Nay vote passed by majority.**

Financial Secretary Barb Hobson reported income of \$3,688.24 for the month of June with \$191.27 in the money market and accumulated interest of \$1.50.

Treasurer Jan Clous reported expenses of \$22,757.81 with an ending checkbook balance of \$86,323.22, \$11,981.10 in savings, and \$101,055.61 in the money market

as of June 30, 2024. ****Motion by Bill Myers to accept the financial reports as read, 2nd by Ron Stark. Motion carried.**

The following were welcomed as new members by the membership: Larry Barnes, Leroy Danks, Pat Munsell and Jeff Kranz. Sean reminded those in attendance that the July 12th meeting is the last meeting to sign up as a new working member for the 2024 show. Blain announced that Sean and Megan Emery will be stepping down as membership committee chairs. Sean has accepted a new job and they have a young family which has created the need for them to prioritize their responsibilities. Anyone interested in volunteering for this committee was asked to see Barb after the meeting. Blain and the members thanked them for their time spent as membership committee chairs.

Blain shared a panoramic picture of the steam engines. The framed photo was taken and donated by Lori Gelinias. It will be hung on display in the clubhouse.

Blain has spoken with Brian from the RR Historical Society of NW Michigan. The crossing guards will be here for the show in August.

There are still many Buckley advertising books that need to be shared. Please continue to take them and display them wherever you can.

Barb reminded the members of the importance of paying their dues on time to avoid late fees in June and July. She stressed the convenience of paying the \$10 yearly membership fee at the show when you go to the soundbooth to get your wristbands, which every member should be doing. The wristbands help us know what members we have working on the grounds during the show. After the show, she will know who has already paid their dues for the following year. You will then receive your membership card in the mail. If you paid your dues and don't receive your card by November, please contact Barb. If possible, please pay by check so Barb has a paper trail if any issues should arise. She also asked lifetime members to fill out a form occasionally, although you are not required to pay any dues. This helps Barb keep all of your membership information up to date.

Todd Benson introduced some representatives of the Osceola County Sheriff's Posse that were in attendance. They met with Mike Woodward and will be assisting with parking again this year during the show. The membership thanked them for the great job they did last year during the show and we are looking forward to working with them again this year.

Blain brought up the condition of the railroad and the need for some necessary maintenance to the track to meet the inspectors requirements. Greg Thon has done a great deal of research, with the aid of the Southern Michigan Railroad Society, which is also a non-profit group. A crew that is working in the area is available to come in and replace 500 ties before the show. The cost of 500 6" ties with 4 spikes per tie and regauging is \$90,000. This does not include the removal of the old ties. Many members shared their concerns and asked questions which were addressed by Blain and the board. The safety of the track, the rising cost of repairs, availability of ties and labor in the future were discussed. Pete LaBelle explained that all of the ties that need to be replaced are marked with a blue dot if anyone would like to walk the track. Todd Benson called for a vote. The members voted on replacing 500 ties with a total cost of \$90,000 with \$45,000 due upon completion of the work and \$45,000 due 45 days after the work. **** The vote passed with a show of hands.**

Todd Benson shared that the Toy Box still needs work and volunteers are still needed. Progress is being made on the Post Office The ceiling has been painted. Blain asked for some members that are able to do some carpentry work to volunteer.

Copies of the updated committee chair list are available on the website. According to the club bylaws, members must vote on the list as written. ****Cory Wall made a motion to accept the list as written, 2nd by Jim Luper. Motion carried.**

Blain shared 3 newly created forms with the members:

1. Incident Report form- to be used to report anything that may need to be documented for further reference during the show or any other time on the grounds. This form is to be filled out by a committee's oversight eBoard member when contacted by the committee chair where the incident took place. The committee chair will also sign the form as a witness to the incident.
2. Event Form-this form is to be filled out by guests wanting to use the club showgrounds for their own events.
3. Request for a Quote- this form is to be used with contractors giving quotes and bids for club projects.

The club has received our quote for the Fire/EMS service from Northwest Emergency Services for the show this year. The quote for the fire department is \$3,500 and the EMS is \$5,500 which is the same as last year.

Chris Decker has expressed the need for someone to help count money during the show. Anyone volunteering for this position will be interviewed by the eBoard and may have to complete a background check due the sensitivity of this position. Please let Chris or Blain know if you are interested.

The club is in need of a 6" commercial wood chipper. This will be used for a couple days to clean up a large quantity of brush that has been generated on the grounds and in the Pines campground.

Ron Decker requested help for hands-on activities in the Webber building during the show. Please see Ron if you can help out.

Carol's Coop has asked for help at the shuttle gate taking money and putting on wristbands for the guests. This is an indoor, sitting down job with flexible hours.

The general store is in need of an upright freezer. If you have one, please let them know.

If anyone needs steam engine or tractor hauling done, please see Frank Holschu.

Bill Fenton will be binding the wheat tomorrow, July 13th. Many volunteers are needed to help with this large project.

Brandon and Greg are looking for a usable 8-10 foot grain drill to plant oats and wheat in the fall. We would like to sustain our own crop on the showgrounds. Our wheat this year was not good and we are binding the neighbors wheat for the show.

Ron Stark inquired about showers at the Buckley school during the show this year. This service is no longer available due to a lack of volunteers.

There is still a need for members to help at the shingle mill with the branding.

All of the gates are requesting more help this year. The north gate's hours are 7 am- 9 pm. Thursday through Saturday are the busiest days and require the most help. Please stop by a gate to set up a time to volunteer for a 4 hour shift.

Jim has received 3 jukeboxes for donation to the club. This is a result of a Facebook post he made a few weeks ago in reference to the new Soda Fountain Shop that will be open for the show this year. If anyone knows how to get the jukeboxes working, please see Jim.

Jim has received the new calendars and they are available for purchase for \$10.

Barb has day passes available for purchase.

The memorial service will be held Saturday night during the show this year.

The meeting for the month of August will be Friday, August 2nd.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Kelley VanAlstine