

Northwest Michigan Engine and Thresher Club, Inc

Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2025

Time: 7:30 pm

Place: Clubhouse

Executive board members present: Blain Tarrant Ham Hobson Barb Hobson
 Bill Fenton Janice Clous Larry Clous Kelley VanAlstine Jim Luper
 Lisa Gulliver Brandon Jenkins Greg Thon Todd Benson, past president

Meeting called to order by President Blain Tarrant at 7:30 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and an opening prayer was given by David VanAlstine.

There were several deaths reported; Dale Fisher, John Sprandel, Sharon Beechcraft, Sid Beechcraft, and Muriel Gundy who were all lifetime members. Also member James Owen, and non-member/ longtime exhibitor, Duane Newman. A moment of silence was given in their honor.

Several illnesses were reported: Norma Hildbrandt, Frank Darling, Randy Selander, and Francine Baats. Also noted as being ill were both Blain and Paula's parents.

Blain introduced Bill Fenton as the new eBoard trustee. He is filling the position vacated by Ham Hobson. Ham is now the club's vice president, replacing Kim Yanich.

Secretary Kelley VanAlstine read the minutes from the November 1, 2024 meeting. A motion to accept the minutes as read by Ron Stark. Seconded by Tom Barber. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary Barb Hobson read the income reports for the months of November 2024 through March 2025. Total income was \$9,409.97. Treasurer Jan Clous read the expense reports for the months of December 2024 through March of 2025. Total expenses were \$18,575.40. The balances as of March 31, 2025 were: \$14,373.75 in checking, \$10,984.08 in savings, and \$101,583.16 in the money market account. A motion to accept the financial reports as read was made by Lon Bridson, seconded by Scott Labbe. Motion carried.

Officers Reports

Blain reported that the club's taxes have been completed and submitted. The IRS has restored the club's 501C3 status and classified it as retroactive. The club can begin grant writing and taking donations and giving tax credits to the donors. The lawyers have recommended some policies be put in place to help protect club procedures. These will be discussed in further detail at a later date. The next step will be to work with the IRS to get the money reimbursed that is owed to the club. Blain thanked Jan, Larry, Ham and Barb for their dedication to this time consuming task for the betterment of the club.

Correspondence

Blain read notes from Amelia Holschu thanking the club for the academic scholarship she received.

Committee Reports

The following were welcomed as new members: Nick Ware, Cinthia Steele, and Aaron Steele.

Carl VanWylen reported that a diesel Hit and Miss Engine has been donated to the club as well as two Minneapolis Moline tractors.

There are many projects on the Showgrounds that need to be completed this year. Priority #1- The Machine Shop will be the main focus. It needs to be finished before the show. Electrical work needs to be done and the machinery needs to be moved. Please see Norm Schutte or Steve Scott if you would like to help.

Priority #2- The Toybox and the Post Office need to be completed. Electricity and finishing work needs done on both of these buildings. Please see Ham Hobson, Bill Fenton, Carl VanWylen or Tom Farnsworth to volunteer in this area.

There are many general maintenance projects all over the grounds. Blain is requesting all members to donate some volunteer time. All skill levels are needed, no matter how big or small the task may be.

The club needs to keep track of volunteer hours to stay in compliance with our 501C3 status. Please keep track of all volunteer hours, whether done on or off the show grounds. Bill Fenton has a simple form that is to be used for tracking your volunteer time. There will be a drop box available for turning in your forms. Please do this once a month. During the show, the committee chairs will keep track of their crew's hours. The pre-show hours are the individual's responsibility.

Pete LaBelle gave an update on the train. The train needs constant maintenance and always has ongoing projects. The crew is trying to stay proactive to keep ahead of problems. Pete is asking for volunteers for his crew. He also needs help sorting through the old railroad spikes. Please see him if you have interest in working on any of the train projects.

The club has purchased a "new to us" Wrangler. Please treat it with respect. This addition will help alleviate some of the need for the other Wrangler. Please take note that one Wrangler takes diesel fuel and the other takes gas.

The Harness Shop needs some roof repair and the Hospitality Booth needs some work done on the exterior.

Jan and Larry Clous will continue to take care of the ground maintenance. Please see one of them if you are interested in helping with mowing or trimming. If you see something on the ground that needs to be put in its proper place, please take the time to do so.

Concrete work needs to be done in front of the Sound Booth. Please see Ham Hobson if you're interested in helping with this project.

The advertising book for the show is coming along well. There may still be ad space that needs filled for this year's book. Please reach out to Todd Benson as soon as possible if you have any interest or know of someone who does. There is a possibility that the books may be done for the May show.

The fountain that was on Front Street, which came from the historic Wilhelm Department Store in Traverse City, has been restored. A friend of Blains from 'Powdercoat of Central Michigan' did it at no charge for the club. A thank you will be sent to him.

Unfinished Business

The non-exhibitor camping fees will increase from \$20 to \$40 starting this year. They will pay the gate fee as well. Scott Labbe made a motion for an increase to \$30 for the camping fee and \$10 for the maintenance fee for a total of \$40 to start being implemented for the 2025 show. Ron Stark seconded. Motion carried.

The club is in need of a few people to write grant requests. There are training classes available. Please let Blain know if you feel you could help with this.

We are still in need of volunteers to take over the North Entry Gate the week of the show. This is a big commitment and requires at least 3 people to fill shifts.

If you have any printing projects that need done, please let Blain and Paula know.

There are project and budget requests forms that need to be filled out for any money you may need for projects for the club. The IRS is requiring a paper trail for all expenditures.

The Swap Meet and Car Show will be Friday and Saturday, May 16 and 17. A local British Car club will be participating. Please disperse the flyers into the community and invite any car enthusiasts you may know. If you know of any clubs, please have them contact Jim Luper. This will coincide on the grounds with our traditional swap meet to encourage more participation.

Jan and Larry Clous have stepped down from the camping committee. Dan Ockert will be taking over the members camping. Please see him with any questions or concerns.

The committee chair meetings will be held Saturday, May 17th at 5 pm and again on Friday, August 22nd at 7 pm. Please add these dates to your calendar.

The east gate is locked for volunteers. Please use the North Gate for entry. It is usually unlocked if there are people on the grounds. The gate may be shut, but usually unlocked.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

