

Northwest Michigan Engine and Thresher Club, Inc.

Approved Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: 7/11/2025

Time: 7:33 pm

Place: Sam Zue Building

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm by President Blain Tarrant.

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

There were no deaths reported.

Ron Bancroft was reported as being ill. Elmer read a text from Ron's family providing an update on how Ron is doing. Discussed Ron's part of the show, Elmer will reach out to see what the families wishes are if Ron can't make it.

President Blain Tarrant read the minutes from the June membership meeting. Ron Stark made a motion to accept the minutes as read; with a second by Bill Myer. They were approved as read.

Financial Secretary Barb Hobson reported income of \$3,417.47 for the month of June.

Treasurer Jan Clous reported expenses of \$14,433.12 with an ending checkbook balance of \$7,474.92, \$10,985.44 in savings, and \$72,051.89 in the money market as of the end of June. Paul Raffel made a motion to accept the financial as read; with a second by Dorene Strang. Both reports were approved as read.

The following were welcomed as new members by Lesa Rice: Michael & Tony Dockery-Fobar; Calvin O'Neil, Merwyn Ashbaucher, Frank Chapman, Landon Hawkins, Kita Larrence, Daniel Valley, Tim Halm, Mike Stowe, and Susan Helle.

Donations – nothing to report.

Train – Pete LaBelle reported the locomotive is fixed. They still have some maintenance to do but in good shape for the show. They are still replacing railroad ties in the switchyard.

Grounds maintenance – on top of mowing and working on replacing the rear tire on the Allis Chalmers, still a lot of weed whipping and detailed mowing is needed around the tracks and in the campgrounds. If interested in helping, see Blain after the meeting.

Building Maintenance – priority projects list – still projects remaining on this list – still looking for volunteers for painting or wood replacements. If interested in helping, see Blain after the meeting.

Railroad – Paul Raffel announced that a few of his conductors have appeared on the delinquent list so he's looking for help for the show. If interested, see Paul outside under the portico after the meeting.

Budgets Request Forms – any committee that's going to need money, need to get those submitted right away. Explained why these forms are required.

No additional committee requests from the floor.

Post Office – Jim Luper announced the post office will be open during the show and plans to sell post cards. Needs helpers. If interested, see Jim after the meeting.

Soda Fountain – Todd March looking for more youth to help. If interested, see Todd after the meeting. He'd like to create a schedule.

5-10 Year Plan – Per Blain, Greg has received a lot of good feedback after his presentation. This presentation was meant to be an eye opener for everyone. Blain feels we are on the right path by raising some rates but everyone needs to be aware that we need to be more aware of our expenses so we can be sustainable in the future. We are listening to everyone's ideas and moving forward.

Priority Projects – discussed above. The list is on the whiteboard, and some jobs are still in need of volunteers.

Sound Booth – Per Blain, Ron Stark has been working on replacing speakers for the sounds system for the past few weekends. Ron says he doesn't need help, but he could use some young help to do the heavy lifting and climbing. Replacing 35 speakers this year.

Printing Needs – Blain announced this is the last call for printing needs. If anything is needed, see Paula Tarrant. Paula Tarrant explained she has a work schedule that can be used by any area and a worker information list. If any area is interested, see Paula after the meeting.

Wheat Harvest – scheduled for July 19. If interested, see Bill Fenton to sign up and he will contact everyone ahead of time.

Yesterday Home Map Board – they are getting ready to take out the pins and thought people would like to see where people are from that attend our show.

Committee Chair Post Show Meeting scheduled for August 23 at 7 pm. Confirmed this is on Saturday.

Please sign in before you leave. No cards to sign.

Sang Happy Birthday to Kayla Ance – her 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

Calendars – the 2025-26 calendars are here and for sale for \$10. See Jim Luper after the meeting.

Sale Flyer – if interested, the flyer will be on the table after the meeting.

Member Dues – Per Barb, reminded people that dues will be \$30 next meeting and after that a member cannot work the show. If you recognize anyone on the list, please reach out to them and let them know to get ahead of her.

New Member Campsites – If you need a campsite, see Lisa before you set up. Campsites are assigned, not a free for all. As a member, if you have a camper that's not in your assigned spot, get it moved before the August month.

Election – Per Greg, Todd asked him to announce that the election will be in October. All the officers and 3 trustee positions are up for election – Greg Thon, Brandon Jenkins, and Bill Fenton (1 year term). If interested in running, contact Todd Benson or Blain Tarrant. Must request to be added to the ballot by the close of September. To run for office, sponsor a new member, or be a committee chair, you must be a member in good standing for 3 years. Barb recommended to pay your membership dues at the show for the following year. Membership starts in January each year so those that don't pay until April or after are already delinquent. We don't charge delinquent fee until after the June meeting.

Coal – Tom Graham mentioned that there is a good chance that we will need coal this year. He doesn't think we'll have enough. Frank thinks we will have enough. He requested that Pete take a look to see what he thinks. Blain said we need to know as soon as possible. We purchased approximately \$6,000 worth last year and it was supposed to last 2 years; however, we had 18 steamers last year.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Meeting minutes taken by Paula Tarrant.