

Northwest Michigan Engine and Thresher Club, Inc.

November Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/07/2025

Time: 7:30 pm

Place: Clubhouse

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 7:30 pm by President Blain Tarrant.

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

There was one death reported; Al Gray, who worked with the train as a conductor. Ham shared that Beverly Barber was recovering from kidney surgery.

Blain introduced Scott Oeverman and welcomed him as the newly elected eBoard member. He also thanked Greg Thon for his time and dedication as he ends his duties as an eBoard member.

A collection for Boots for Kids was taken.

The minutes from the October meeting were read and approved.

Barb reported total income for the month of October of \$2,314.56 with money market interest of \$78.59 and checking interest of \$2.47.

In the absence of Jan, Larry reported total expenses of \$3,048.82 with a remaining bank balance of \$84,523.63, savings account balance of \$10,988.18 and \$57,435.10 in the money market account. Additionally, \$70,000 was moved from checking and placed in the money market account. The savings account was closed and all of that money was also placed in the money market account. This gives a balance of \$14,731 in the checking account and \$138,501.87 in the money market account. This was done to accrue a larger rate of interest. The finance reports were approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Lesa Rice introduced new members; Ron Schutt, Mason Morey, Dustin Lutke, Dennis Carpenter and Buck Roggenbuck. They were welcomed by the current members in attendance.

Carl VanWylen informed the club that they are looking for business sponsors for the 2026 advertising book as well as interesting stories from the members. Please contact

Carl or Todd Benson if you know of anyone interested in buying an ad or has a story to share.

Carl shared that a Case-o-matic pedal tractor has been donated for display in the Toybox. Also an old rototiller and parts off the Coast Guard boat in Muskegon have been acquired as well as a grinding wheel.

Blain informed the members that everything has been done to winterize the grounds. There will be many grounds maintenance and building maintenance projects that will need done as soon as Spring arrives. Blain has constructed a small rodent proof corn crib to store leftover corn that was in the Webber barn. There was discussion about new doors for the basement of the clubhouse. Barb shared that brick work will need to be done to make new doors fit because the current doors are not a standard fit. If you know of a member that is skilled in brick work, please let Blain or Ham know.

Any committees that have projects for next year, please get your budget requests in as soon as possible for consideration.

Unfinished Business:

The priority project list will be updated over the winter and posted for the first Spring meeting.

Blain read the proposal created by the eBoard for raising fees for 2026:

Maintenance Fee- Increase from \$10 to \$40 for everyone

Gate Fee- Increase Daily fee from \$10 to \$15 and increase weekly fee from \$25 to \$40.

Lower free kids age from 15 and & under to 10 and & under. Kids 11 & over will pay full admission fee.

Stronger scrutinizing of what is considered "a worthy exhibit" to help cut down on exhibitors bringing in random exhibits, such as lawnmowers, just to get in free.

Megan Morey made a motion to accept the proposal. Seconded by Greg Thon. The floor was open for comments from the members. There was much discussion on both sides of the proposal.

Lisa Gulliver made a friendly amendment to change the age for kids from 10 and under to 12 under for free entry. Both Megan and Greg, who made the original motion, agreed to the change. Steve Scott called for a vote. The proposal passed with majority yes and one no vote. Motion carried.

Blain let the members know that the dues will be raising for members in 2027. There will be discussion on this in the 2026 membership meetings to create a proposal to be voted on at that time.

A request has been made to create a Special Events committee. This committee will be headed by Kevin Beerens and John VanWylen. The committee will continue to be self funded by donations. They have asked for a budget of \$1,500 to be able to book and retain bands in advance for the show. Larry made a motion to create a Special Events committee. Brandon seconded. The proposal was open for discussion. There were many ideas on what is considered a 'special event'. Lisa made a motion that a friendly amendment be made that the committee be called the "Special Entertainment" committee. The amendment was voted on by the members with 'yes' being the majority vote. The motion passed. The committee will have to do a budget request and present it to the board like the rest of the committees. They will continue to be self funded. Please see Kevin or John if you would like to be a part of this committee.

Election Results 2026 eBoard: President Blain Tarrant, Vice President Ham Hobson, Financial Secretary Barb Hobson, Treasurer Jan Clous, Secretary Kelley VanAlstine, Trustee Larry Clous 1 year remaining, Trustee Bill Fenton 1 year remaining, Trustee Jim Luper 2 years remaining, Trustee Lisa Gulliver 2 years remaining, Trustee Brandon Jenkins newly re-elected 3 years remaining, Trustee Scott Oeverman newly elected 3 years remaining.

New Business

A new policy was created by the eBoard. No dogs are allowed in any building (except service animals) and you must clean up after your pets.

Announcements:

The Soda Fountain is looking for an antique cash register in working condition. Please let Blain know if you can help with this.

Please remember to sign in.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.