

Northwest Michigan Engine and Threshers Club, Inc.

Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: May 1, 2026

Time: 7:35 pm

Place: Sam Zue Building

Executive Board Members Present: President Blain Tarrant, Vice President Ham Hobson, Financial Secretary Barb Hobson, Treasurer Jan Clous, Trustees- Larry Clous, Jim Luper, Lisa Gulliver, Bill Fenton, Scott Overman, Past President Todd Benson

The meeting was called to order by President Blain Tarrant.

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

One member's death was reported: Viril Wright.

Robin, Ashta Jenkin's mother, passed away.

A moment of silence was given in their honor.

Two members were reported with illnesses. Member Gayle Buyze is in hospice care. Member Gloria Ockert is recovering from cancer treatment.

The minutes from the April 2026 meeting were read.

A motion to accept the meeting minutes as read was made by Scott Labbe, 2nd by Lesa Rice. Motion approved.

Financial secretary Barb Hobson read income reports for April 2026. Total income for the month was \$7,670. There's a sub-note on the report under general donations; there are 3 project donations. 1) Tug Boat engine for \$1,000; 2) Kahlenberg Engine \$1,000; Sawmill - \$500.

Treasurer Jan Clous read the expense reports for April 2026. Total expenses were \$11,347.56 for the month. This leaves a checking account balance of \$38,319.04, and \$139,389.34 in the money market account. The bank statement wasn't available yet today, so the interest hasn't been posted.

A motion to accept the financial reports as read was made by Bill Myers, 2nd by Buck Ruggenbuck. Motion approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

New Members: There were 3 new members to report for April. Carrie Kimmel, Roger Kimmel, and Cynthia Hardwood. New members were welcomed in.

Donations: Per Carl Van Wylen, nothing new for April. Blain gave an update on the Underwood family donation to the club. There are 2 trailer loads under the roof outside the Sam Zue Building. A lot of this is usable by the Club; what's not will be sold at the

May Swap Meet. There's more to come. If you get a chance to check it out, you should; there's some really nice stuff out there.

Train: No update

Grounds Maintenance- There is a large amount of spring cleanup needed on the showgrounds. Several large tree branches need to be cut up and removed. This is a priority in the areas where the swap meet will be held in May. Raking and general yard maintenance need to be done as well. Mowing season is also coming.

Building Maintenance- no change from last month.

Advertising Book- Per Blain, the advertising book is here. He's read through it and feels it's the best book yet. Todd asked the membership to get the books out to the advertisers right away. He also said to get them out in circulation as soon as possible. There is a list of advertisers/sponsors in the back of the book. Todd requested that everyone look at the list and see if there are any in their area. If so, please grab some books and get them delivered. Advertising books are also packaged in 50 books per bundle instead of 25. Todd, Carl, and Blain thanked everyone who contributed to the book this year. Articles are very well written.

Oil Well Lease: Ham Hobson shared that we are having issues with our oil well lease. They are 2 months behind in payments and haven't signed the lease agreement yet. The board will meet after this meeting to discuss the recommended next steps. The recommendation is to send them a certified letter informing them that they are in default and that it needs to be resolved.

Swap Meet- Swap Meet is May 15th and 16th. Jim Luper asked the members to take flyers for the Swap Meet and Car Show and distribute them throughout our communities. Jim encouraged members to bring their cars to the car show on Saturday. Blain shared that the first 20 cars will receive a free meal. David VanAlstine announced that the cars do not have to be antiques to attend the car show.

Budget Requests- Please get any budget requests turned in as soon as possible for any projects you would like to see done this summer.

Committee Chair – Barb requested committee chairs to check their name and phone numbers for accuracy. This list will be voted on at the June membership meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Flea Market parking area: Right behind the caretaker's house will be the Flea Market parking area. It will be marked off, and there will be signage. This parking is for tractors, golf carts, etc., to park while they're in the Flea Market. Per our camping permit, this is not a permitted camping area.

Camping Permit: Per Ham, we got our camping permit issue resolved. They had the camping before show time and the show time numbers transposed. Blain asked for a round of applause for Ham's hard work on this issue.

Rule Changes by the board after last year's show:

- Quiet hours 11 pm – 7 am (curfew and generators)
- No bicycles, minibikes, hoverboards, scooters, etc. are allowed on Club Property.
- Handicap assisted mobility devices must be approved and registered upon entry.

- Service animals are allowed on Club Property. A service animal must be under the handler's control (leashed or harnessed), housebroken, and trained to perform tasks.
- No pets (including emotional support animals) are allowed in the Show Area or to be left unattended in a vehicle on Club Property, including the parking lots. Pets are permitted at campsites only. They must be on a 6-foot leash or shorter and always kept quiet (within reason). There are 2 designated pet areas on the grounds (marked on the grounds map). Please use the one closest to your campsite. **Please clean up after your pet.**
- No non-service animals are allowed in any Club Buildings at any time. A member asked if a person who wants to come in and is holding a little dog are they allowed to bring it on the grounds. Blain answered, The way the law reads, you can only ask 1) if it's a service animal. If they answer yes, you are allowed to ask 2) what service does it provide you? If they say emotional support, it is not allowed on the grounds. If they say it's a service dog trained to detect a diabetic incident. Then it would be allowed on the grounds.

Show Volunteers: Working on an internal shuttle system. It's unclear at this time how much of the internal shuttle will be implemented by show time this year. We have a bus we would like to use to shuttle between the campgrounds and grounds. We need drivers to volunteer for a 2-hour shift. See Bill Fenton to sign up to volunteer. Not required to have a CDL or special license to drive the bus. Marianne Cooke asked if they have special groups that come in that require handicap transport. Will this bus be available for that use? Blain said it will be available, but we need a heads-up to make sure the bus is where it needs to be at the correct time.

Chris Groulx asked, What days are the new rules in effect? Blain said the show runs from Sunday to Sunday of the show week.

Electricity: Ham was at the showgrounds in April, checking the buildings, realizing there wasn't any power on the grounds. Ham called Steve, and he came up to the grounds and checked everything out. In late March, we had a lightning strike that knocked the fuses out of the pole. Consumers Energy came out, and after Steve had isolated our buildings, they put fuses back in the pole, turned the power back on, and the power flashed. There was full-line voltage coming off the box. Consumers Energy said it was our responsibility to repair it, so we ordered about \$5,000 worth of wire. Consumers Energy ended up making all the repairs. We attempted to cancel the wire, but it had already been cut. Consumers Energy agreed to reimburse us for some of the wire, and the wire company reduced the bill for the labor of cutting it. If we agree to this, we will keep the wire, and it will only cost us about \$1,200. The wire can be used on the grounds. Blain thanked Steve Scott, Ham Hobson, Bill Fenton, and Jeff Gunnnett for taking care of this issue.

Due Increase: It was proposed 3 years ago to increase our dues. At that time, it was voted to increase the dues from \$5 per person per year to \$10 per person per year. It was also agreed that we would revisit another increase in a couple of years. It's now proposed to increase the regular membership dues for 2027 from \$10 per person per year to \$20 per person per year. The working associate member dues are proposed to increase for 2027 from \$55 per person per year to \$75 per person per year. Barb explained that a working associate membership is a membership with special circumstances that is reviewed and approved by the board on a case-by-case basis. This membership was developed for members who didn't live close, like Hawaii and

Arizona, but could contribute in other ways. We have very few of these memberships. This will be voted on at the June meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jan and Larry Clous have announced that this will be their last year as officers. They will still be involved in the Club. We will be looking for a new Treasurer and 2 Trustees this fall. If you have the skills to be the Treasurer or are interested in running for a Trustee position, start thinking about running this fall. Blain thinks any position that handles money should require a background check.

Sign in, located on the counter by the overhead door

Sign the get-well and condolence cards located on the counter by the overhead door

All reimbursements must be received in the same expenditure year. If you bought something and need reimbursement, get it turned in right away. Also, please cash reimbursement checks right away.

Donation Moving Help: The Underwood donation still has a few truckloads of items that need to be hauled to the grounds from Stanwood, Michigan. Blain thanked Steve Scott, Jeff Gunnet, John Kammer, David VanAlstine, Josh Van Alstine, and Carl VanWylen for working on this project.

Sell railcar: The eBoard has approved the sale of the green railcar to Pete' LaBelle's contact. It needs to be stripped down. If interested in helping, it will take a chainsaw and a cutting torch, and there are some parts we'd like to salvage on it. If interested in helping, see Pete LaBelle.

Golf Carts/UTVs are required to have an orange flag. It must be 8' up from the ground. These will be for sale at the East Gate for those who don't have one.

New Vendor Contracts have been created. 1) T-Shirt Vendor, 2) Food Vendors, 3) Flea Market, 4) Crafts/Woodworking/Building Vendors. All vendor contracts will be reviewed and approved annually by the eBoard in July, the year before the next show. These will be updated, and PDF versions will be provided to the Committee Heads before the show for distribution. Therefore, if any changes are being requested, they must be presented to the eBoard before the July eBoard meeting.

Railroad Historical Society of NW Michigan Anniversary Celebrations, May 14 at the Filling Station (formerly C & O Depot). They volunteer at the show, manning our railroad crossings. For anyone interested, we have an open invitation to attend.

Swap Meet (5/15 & 5/16) and Car Show (5/16)

May 16 Meetings in the Sam Zue Building:

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Gate committee meeting (Only eBoard members on committee)

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm - Committee Head meeting (All eBoard members)

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm - Steam committee meeting (All eBoard members)

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm - Sawmill committee meeting (All eBoard members)

Dues: Barb reminded everyone that dues are due. As of January 1, members with unpaid dues are now members not in good standing. Barb has emailed anyone who has provided a good email address to let them know their dues are unpaid.

Email address: This is how we communicate with you. If you didn't receive the email regarding the postponement of the April meeting, we do not have a good email address for you. See Barb to confirm what we have. Barb mentioned that lifetime members need to update their information, too.

There will be an eBoard meeting after this meeting.

Ham announced that if you have items stored on the grounds, make sure you have a blue sheet filled out. This is the only way we know who owns what. If something happens on the grounds, it will appear that the Club owns those items.

Tony has someone willing to donate a battery and charger for the Bay City crane so it can be displayed and used during that show.

There are a few items that have been donated to the Club that we don't have use for them, so they will be posted on the Facebook Buy-Sell-Trade page. 1) Fork Truck, 2) Walk behind tractor with attachments, 3) Walk behind trench, and 4) Wood Stove from the basement of the Clubhouse.

Martha Darling asked if the camping fee stayed the same. No, the maintenance fee was voted on and increased to \$40 by the membership in November.

Bruce Bosley asked what was found out about the paint and stain. Blain said he hasn't heard back on that yet. Pete is still working on what colors are available.

Last year, we had general membership meetings on Friday and eBoard meetings the next night on Saturday. Blain said this has been hard for the eBoard. If there are items that require a vote, it won't happen until after the membership meeting. We are going to try to have the eBoard meetings on Thursdays at 7:00 pm at least for June. It will be decided then whether to continue this way or change it back to the Saturday after the general membership meeting.

Golf Cart driver – concerned that there isn't enough seating on the grounds. Blain said we are currently working on getting more benches. Per Barb, we are short a full cart of benches.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm.

Meeting minutes were taken and transcribed by Paula Tarrant.