Northwest Michigan Engine and Thresher Club, Inc

Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

Date: July 10, 2026 Time: 7:30 PM Location: Sam Zue Building

Executive Board Members Present: ☒ President Blain Tarrant
☒ Vice President Ham Hobson ☒ Treasurer Jan Clous
☒ Financial Secretary Barb Hobson ☒ Secretary Kelley VanAlstine
Trustees: ☐ Brandon Jenkins ☒ Jim Luper ☒ Larry Clous ☒ Lisa Gulliver
☒ Bill Fenton ☒ Scott Oeverman ☐ Past President Todd Benson

The meeting was called to order by President Blain Tarrant. The Pledge was recited and a prayer was given by David VanAlstine.

A moment of silence was held for Pat Labbe who passed away.

Blain welcomed Ron Stark back who has been recovering from multiple surgeries.

The June meeting minutes were read. One correction was made to the minutes and then approved.

The financial secretary's report was read by Barb Hobson. She reported income of $4,064.21, including interest of $.32 in checking and $176.89 interest in the savings account.

The treasurer's report was read by Jan Clous. She reported $12,129.90 in total expenses for the month of June. This leaves a bank balance of $7,674.15 and $139,925,21 in the money market account. The financial reports were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

New Members: Six new members were welcomed to the club; David Mulawski, Andrew and Amanda Wilson, Andrew Potter, Heather Sprandel, and Jessica Yancich.

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Donations: Carl VanWylen shared that a bean sorter has been donated to the club as well as a belt driven drill press. The drill press came from the Cadillac Bowling Alley. Blain asked for a few members to help move a windmill that was donated last month. It is located 5 miles from the showgrounds.

Train: Pete reported that he still can use some help with track work and maintenance on the train. The large door at the end of the workshop received some damage and will need to be repaired soon as well. Please see Pete if you can help out in any way.

Grounds Maintenance: Blain shared that there is always maintenance that needs done on the show grounds. There are weed trimmers and other equipment available for members to use. The stage from building #22 has been removed. The donations from Stanwood will be moved from the Zue Building lean-to and stored there during the show. Please volunteer some time to help out.

Building Maintenance: There are painting projects that need done. Please see Barb or Bruce if you would like to help. The ridgecaps need to be put on the museum and the St. Patrick's buildings.

Oil Well Lease: Ham shared that the rent on the oil well lease has been paid to date but they still have not signed any contract. Ham and Tony talked with a contracted maintenance man for the oil company. He said that the torch will be turned off for the show and education days.

Budgets: Please get your budget requests forms turned in if your committee plans on spending any money for the show. Also, if you have any signs that need to be updated, please let Blain know.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Contracts: The contracts for the Fire Department and EMS have been approved and signed. The list of rented golf carts has been thinned down by the eBoard to help bring the cost down. Blain will be checking with the Health Department to

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see how many porta johns we are required to have on the showgrounds for the show. Last year there were several that were used very little. We will adjust the number accordingly to help alleviate the cost.

Membership Dues Proposal: The membership dues that were voted on in June have been rescinded. After reading through the bylaws, Lisa discovered that any discussion of raising the dues has to happen over the winter and be voted on in the April meeting. Barb made a motion to rescind the dues raise until next year; Jim seconded. Approved. We will vote on a new proposal to increase the working member fee from $10 to $20 and associate member fee from $55 to $75 in April. There was also discussion of raising the new member initiation fee from $25 to $50. After some confusion, the wording of the by-laws was made clear. It was determined this proposal will be put on hold as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

Blain shared that he and Paula will not be able to be at the Clare Welcome Center to promote the show on August 1. He asked for some volunteers to take their place. If you would be willing to help with this, see Blain.

Equipment /Tile: Blain thanked Jake Fischer and Dean's Excavating for donating the tile and use of their equipment to put in the new French drain in front of the food pavilion.

Soundbooth Walkway: Blain and Tony recognized the members who worked on the new concrete walkway in front of the soundbooth.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The date in last year's calendar says the September meeting is Friday September 4th. The correct date is Friday September 11th.
- The wheat harvest is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, July 18th. Many helpers are needed for this. Please see Bill if interested.
- Members can start bringing in campers on the Friday August 7th meeting day. Working members need to move their campers before then if they are in someone else's camping spot.

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- If you are roping off an approved site, please use high visibility tape and place your name and phone number somewhere on it.
- Member camping registration has started. Please be sure to register and pay for your camping.
- All members must enter through the East Gate this year.
- If you have someone in your family turning 16 or 65 this year, please let Barb know.
- Any college age student requesting a scholarship needs to get their letters written and sent to the eBoard.
- There will be three open positions on the ballot for the election in the fall; treasurer and two trustees.
- Calendars are available for $10. See Jim if you would like one.
- Please remember that if you sponsor a new member, you are responsible for them for two years. Please follow up with them on a regular basis.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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