

ORTONVILLE COMMUNITY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - BOARD MEETING

September 28, 2006

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Stowell at 7:13 pm. Also present were board members Agnes Oakley, Carol Kachmar, Dean and Marilyn Salley and Lee Stewart. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved as written.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There were no minutes presented for approval.

REPORT FROM 150TH COMMITTEE: There was no report this evening from this committee.

CORRESPONDENCE: In addition to the regular correspondence, there was a thank-you letter from Dale and Jane Nickel from East China, Michigan, members of the WWII re-enactors who were at SeptemberFest thanking Lee Stewart, John Hay and the other members of O.C.H.S. for the welcome the re-enactors received, for the delicious food and for the friendly welcome from the members they met. They also said that the Historical Society had produced an "exquisite historical site and museum," and that they were looking forward to participating next year. They also pointed out that their thank-you had been typed on a 1941 Royal typewriter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (1) Tom said he received an e-mail from a woman from Okemos, Michigan who has been doing research on an Amos Orton who she thought might be ours. It was as Tom informed her since Amos Orton operated a mill there after he left Ortonville. The woman had not been sure as she had a different wife's name, but Tom told her that Amos' first wife died, and her research involved his second wife. Tom also told her we would be most interested in finding out about her research, and it was suggested this evening that she be invited to make a presentation about her research into Amos' later life at one of our membership meetings. (2) Tom also said that the woman who leads the old-time dance classes at the township hall during Beats, Beets and Eats wants to join O.C.H.S., and it was agreed that she would be a most welcome addition. (3) Carol also reminded the Board that she will not be able to attend the next three membership meetings as the library programs we are sponsoring there are on the same night for the next three months, and she is using these events, not only to make sure O.C.H.S. is presented as one of the sponsors of the Pioneer Family Fun programs but also to recruit, if possible, new members from among the young parents whose children are enrolled. The first program in September on Pioneer Chores was, she reported, an enormous success with she and the participants doing butter churning (and consuming) as well as playing old-fashioned games like "Drop the Handkerchief" and rolling hoops which both parents and children seemed to enjoy.

OLD BUSINESS: (A) There was not a good crowd at SeptemberFest this year due mostly to the threat of bad weather which did not materialize. We served 209 people, and so we have quite a lot of food left that we can serve at Christmas in the Village. The split of food for the two events, however, will somewhat confuse the financial report as we spent more than we took in at SeptemberFest. However, the financial records and profits will be more clear after we serve food at Christmas in the Village. One other financial note is that the band did not show up to play on the porch at SeptemberFest as they were worried that their equipment would get wet, so we do not have that bill to pay. It is too bad they did not show up as there was no rain during the event itself. Tom also said that Jane Derry wants to know what we will do at Christmas in the Village. We will need a committee to meet to plan our participation,

our food service and such for that event. Lee Stewart reported that he has the money from the sale of 349 raffle tickets which, with the addition of donations also given at ticket sales, totals \$3501.18 so far. One of the winners at SeptemberFest was a 90-year-old man from Vienna, Virginia. Lee also said that he would try to organize two more sales at Bueche's at \$5 a ticket for the drawing at Christmas in the Village. (B) The nominating committee reported that candidates for all the positions to be voted on at the membership meeting on October 5 have been set and the ballots will be printed. There are 7 trustee positions to be voted on as well as the positions of President and Treasurer. (C) Carol reported that the baseball game was a success even though we were competing with four other events in the area that day. In fact, immediately after the game, both players and spectators asked if there could be a game next year as well. After talking with Harlan Worden of the Rochester Grangers, the consensus seemed to be that, if we hold a game again, it would be good to hold it in July or August when little is going on in the area in the way of public events. Harlan Worden said that the game could start about 5 pm, to avoid the hottest time of the day, as the game takes only 2-2 1/2 hours, and it would still be light long after that. Carol also said and others agreed that, if we do have a game again, the publicity would need to be more widespread. Carol got the Oakland Press to put a major article in the Our Town section a week before the game and there were small articles in the local papers, but we need to spread the message outside the downtown area to the businesses on M-15 and beyond.

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Tom informed everyone that he was a winner in the duck race this year. He also said that he would see if he could contact the young lady from the health department who was so helpful with our license problem earlier this year. As of now, with the rigid enforcement exhibited toward all the food vendors at SeptemberFest, the coffee house will be open next Saturday on the SeptemberFest license but then is out of business permanently unless accommodation can be reached with the powers that be at the health department about this problem.

ADJOURNMENT: By consensus, the meeting was then adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Carol Mannino Kachmar

Respectfully submitted by Carol Mannino Kachmar/Secretary