

Ortonville Community Historical Society

Minutes for Membership Meeting

July 11, 2023

Members Present: Judy Miracle (President), Ron Allen, Alan Allgaier, Scott Broughton, Ken Bush, Wren Frisch, Kathy Gauthier, Pat George, Mary Kassuba, Debra Minnock, Shauna Quick, Tom Roberts. (12 Board members present).

Absent with Notice: Carol Egbo, June King, Luann Mann (3).

Formal Meeting Call to Order: by Judy Miracle @ 6:15 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance: All participated.

Agenda: Approved as amended.

Minutes from June 2023: Approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Scott B provided a copy of the June Treasurer's report. Approved as presented. Scott B also made a motion to pay the Michigan Historical Society \$35 for annual dues. Approved as presented. He also mentioned that Gwen Hamilton had made a donation of \$5,000 to the Historical Society and he had deposited her check. Thank you so much Gwen for your generosity!

Village Report: Pat G. - the Mann School House is currently being repaired by Bob Hauxwell and painted by Scottt Zimmerman and his crew and the job should be completed shortly.

Old Business: Judy M provided updates on:

The SeptemberFest, which will run from Fri. 09-15 thu Sun. 09-17 (3 days).

Beard Contest: sponsored by Mooney's Barber Shop.

Time Capsule Dedication. Scott B said that Coz estimates that the Historical Society should be receiving a stipend of \$5000, based on final donations. We are very grateful to Coz for all his hard work in making this happen! Allan A, Mary K, and Shauna volunteered to determine items to be placed in the capsule.

Hammer In - Fri, Sat, Sun. Has been approved by the Sheriff's Dept. and Fire Dept. Tom R and Alan A mentioned that the number of blacksmiths attending the event could be 10 or more and they have been approved for overnight camping. Blacksmiths must also sign liability waivers.

Stage Area and Events. The Stage area will be on the front porch of the Mill and crowd seating will be directly across the street. Events include:

Square Dancing. Friday night from 5 till 7 o'clock in the street in front of the Stage area. We are bringing in seasoned callers for the event. Permits have been approved by Fire Chief Kwapis and Sherriff Dept. Lt. Glover.

Saturday's events will start at 12 o'clock Noon. Judy M said that Mr. Ron Allen will be the Master of Ceremonies for the following events: Introduction of Dignitaries; Beard contest; Time Capsule will be dedicated and opened and contents displayed; Presentation of Citizen(s) of the Year awards.

Old Time Kids Games. Penny Scramble (in sand) (Judy M); Butter Churning; Twister (Ken B) Checkers – (Tom R) suggested having a checkers champion take on all comers for prizes.

Pie Baking and Kids Pie Eating Contest.

Farmers Market Booth – Sat, Aug. 12th – OCHS will host a Booth – located at corner of Mill St. and Church St. Volunteers needed.

Kathleen Leece Commemorative Plaque – Mary A and Allan A will explore tree signage and the Mill Pond info.

New Business:

New Window Shades in Mann School – A rather long discussion ensued re. putting up vinyl shades (Ken B) (practical) vs. cloth curtains (Alan A) (historical). Judy M pointed out that a lot of items housed in the Mill and Schoolhouse are not original to the time period. Ultimately, both motions were tabled until a later date.

Military Uniforms – Allan A introduced John Fross, who participates in wartime reenactments, most notably WWII. Together with Roy Allen and Dennis Hoffman, they would be able to sort through the pile of uniforms in the Mill to determine their value, especially if a uniform had been worn by a resident of Ortonville. Other uniforms could be donated to other actors participating in wartime reenactments.

Founder's Day – Sat, Aug 12th - To celebrate approximately when the Village of Ortonville was founded.

Scavenger Hunt – Participants will take a walking tour of our downtown, using our 175th brochure as a guide to locate as many tagged historical buildings as possible. They will receive a “Wooden Nickel” for each building discovered and will be able to turn them in for prizes.

Debra M. – Uses her metal detector to find item(s) of historical value.

Recently, while at the Old Mann School property, she discovered a wax seal worn by teachers to stamp envelopes that contain important papers. Ultimately, this wax seal could be hung on the wall for display purposes.

Raffle off a quilt donated by Brenda Heffernan – During Xmas in the Village, we will hold a silent auction to determine the winner of the quilt.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by: Pat George (Historian).