

Ortonville Community Historical Society
Agenda for General Membership Meeting November 12, 2024 at 6:00pm

“The Ortonville Community Historical Society shall work with local government, businesses, organizations and citizens of all ages to research, collect and safeguard our local heritage through living displays and authentic educational experiences.”

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order by the President, Alan, at 6:02 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Recognition of Guests / New Members by Alan A. – The group welcomed Cynthia Schmidt?????
4. Attendance: Carol Egbo, Ken Bush, Pat George, June King, Mary Kassuba, Alan Allgaier, Tina Allgaier, Kristin Gottschalk, Tom Roberts, Mari Ann Vargo, Kathy Gauthier, Scott Broughton, Cynthia Schmidt
5. Approval of Agenda: – Scott recommended an addition regarding the insurance policy be added to the New Business items. Addition made. June recommended the addition of an item relating to the water supply in the mill. Alan suggested this item be included in the Round Table discussion at the end of the meeting. – *motion to approve the agenda with changes by Mary and second by Ken – motion approved*
6. Approval of Minutes from Oct 8 General Membership Meeting - *Motion to approve the minutes by Mari Ann, second by Kristin- motion approved*
7. Executive Officer Reports
 - a. *President* -Alan reported he had written a press release for *The Citizen* announcing results of the OCHS election and also spoken with the Ortonville Village Council, the DDA and the Library Board to share leadership changes and our willingness to help with projects of these organizations. Then, he did a quick review of the Strategic Planning process he introduced to the Board and is recommending as a method for moving OCHS forward. This included the following:
 - An explanation of the ‘pillars’ which create the foundation of the plan (see diagram at end.) These pillars are the strategies for achieving the main goal of *Building Community Value*. They provide guidance for decision making, planning, etc.
 - Remarks relating to the importance of caring for the infrastructure
 - Recommendations for next steps including the development of action strategies for each ‘pillar’
 - Discussion followed the President’s report. One question was raised regarding any limitations the bylaws might place on possible action strategies/projects. It was decided that the bylaws would always be consulted anytime a project was being considered.
 - b. *Vice President* – Alan reported that Shauna has been working on an updated membership list. She was absent from the meeting due to being on her honeymoon trip.
 - c. *Secretary* – Carol shared the main points of the minutes of the November Board meeting and reported that 2 copies were available to view and could also be found online.
 - d. *Treasurer* – Scott shared his report. *Motion to approve by June – second by Pat – motion approved*
8. Trustee Reports
 - a. *Kathy G.* – Mary and Kathy had spent the day in the mill with Leece family members who had come to pick up their family items. They left two dresses not owned by family members for the mill.
 - b. No other Trustees had reports to give
9. Project Reports
 - a. *School Program* - Judy M. sent a report regarding her meeting with Brandon secondary social studies teachers and the principal. She stated they seemed anxious to find ways the OCHS can support students. As a first project she recommended that Alan A. and John Fross visit 8th grade history classes to present information on the Civil War. Judy also reported that she hoped to get elementary students more involved with the historical society perhaps in some way during the upcoming winter.

- b. *Basement Pushbar* - Mary K. reported that it has been determined that a 'closer' is needed in addition to the pushbar. This would be an expense of \$126.00 in addition to the \$300 for the installation of the pushbar itself. Considering the Board approved \$400 for the project Scott made a motion to amend the amount 'not to exceed \$500. – *second by Alan – motion approved by roll call vote*
- c. *Architectural Services* - Alan reported that Ron Campbell, Preservation Architect for Oakland County, is completing an analysis of the mill and its surrounding property in order to make suggestions for structural improvements. As this project develops. Alan will be discussing it with Matt J, Village Manager and Treasurer.
- d. *Remote Vignettes in Vacant Storefronts* - Alan shared a new idea from the DDA which relates to OCHS creating displays in empty storefronts in the village. He stated that no money is assumed to be needed for this project. Since this project is still in the 'dream stage' no further discussion is needed at this time.

10. Event Reports – Past and future

- a. *Oct 12, Witches' Night Out* - Tina thanked the people who helped at the event and reported that people said it flowed smoothly and pleasantly. She offered the following suggestions for next year:
 - OCHS might want to consider not having the tarot card readers because tours of the mill disturbed them. There are other reader stations in other places in the village so perhaps the Mill is not needed.
 - OCHS needs more volunteers to cover the event prior to its beginning, i.e. 10 AM to 2 PM for tours. This is a reminder that as a group we need to consider adequate coverage for big events.
 - Photo cut-outs were popular so OCHS might want to consider adding one or more at the Mill
 - OCHS might want to consider joining others in creating a social district that would include the Mill. Perhaps a wine-tasting event could be done here. June added a caution regarding problems that can occur when alcohol is part of an event.
- b. *Oct 31, Halloween* - Scott reported there was only a little candy left over and that the hot chocolate was a big success. He also remarked that the event is always fun.
- c. *Nov 9, Christmas Decoration Day* - Alan reported that since Ken, who had been in charge of this event, ended up with Covid he and Tina took the project over. Four trees plus one in the school had been decorated. In addition, a train had been erected in the school. A garland is still to come on porch. Members of group remarked how festive the Mill looked.
- d. *Dec 6 & 7, Christmas in the Village* - Alan reported that he had been meeting regularly with Parks and Rec on this. Regarding event specifics he added the following:
 - The "Living Nativity" has been confirmed, hopefully with live animals, for Friday and Saturday. OCHS is just providing the property for this activity. Hillside Church is doing the work.
 - He reminded the group that OCHS has the bake sale on Saturday, Dec. 7 and he is still checking on the issue of hot chocolate.
 - We are going to need more volunteers for the event.
 - Tom will be blacksmithing on Friday and will have welding students from Brandon displaying some of their work. Tom will be working on Saturday even if the students can't come on that day.
 - Judy M will be doing Christmas cookie decorating in the school.
- e. *Jan. 14, Winter Banquet* - Alan and Tina led a discussion regarding whether or not to try a new idea for the traditional OCHS January event. They offered the following ideas:
 - Instead of 1 PM the event could be in the evening.
 - Instead of a restaurant OCHS could use the Community Room of the Brandon Library
 - Food could be purchased by OCHS. It might be possible to fund the food purchase using the money usually spent on pizza at September's meeting.
 - We could reach out to all our members and perhaps even community members who have been helpful like Matt J from the DDA, David Fleet, e.g.
 - The cost for 20 would likely be about \$250.00 and members could bring dessert.

Discussion followed. Mary K, Grace and Tom expressed support for the idea. Several members mentioned that although it would be nice to use the Mill itself for the event there is simply not enough space. The consensus in the end was that the group liked the idea of the changes.

- f. *May 3, Vintage Sale (M15 Garage Sale)* - Alan reported that last year was the first time for this event and about 300 people came through the mill during it. Therefore, it generated mill visitors and offered an opportunity to sell some of our de-assessed items. OCHS will need someone to coordinate it.

11. Unfinished Business

- a. *Village Agreement* - Alan reported that the agreement is still pending and still on hold. Matt Ryan the Village President is now also the Village Treasurer and he is very busy as a result. Therefore, the agreement is currently “on the back burner.”

12. New Business

- a. *Membership Dues Schedule for 2025* - Alan reminded the group of what the bylaws currently stipulate regarding annual membership fees. There was general consensus that the current fees are okay. – *motion by MariAnn to continue the current fee schedule – second by Ken - approved*
- b. *December Hours* - Alan suggested that OCHS keep the mill open the last 3 Saturdays in December (after Christmas in the Village) since the mill is decorated. Dec. 28 would be the final date and decorations would be taken down at that time.
- c. *Future Meeting Schedule* - Alan suggested OCHS have a December meeting the second Tuesday of December (Dec. 10). The focus of the meeting would be planning for 2025. There was general consensus to hold the meeting.
- d. *Annual Insurance Bill* – OCHS Treasurer, Scott, explained that the current bill is \$509.00 and that this is liability insurance. For example, it covers an incident where someone trips coming into the Mill. He noted that the Village has insurance but this is needed in addition – *Alan made a motion that the bill should be paid. – second by Scott – approved*

13. Roundtable/Announcements – Time was limited but Kristin shared that a Swanson teacher and students will be making decorations for the Mill. Tom shared that Alan and he have been asked to do a blacksmithing presentation for the library.

14. Adjourn – *motion to adjourn by Tina – second by Mary Ellen– adjourned at 7:39 PM*

