

Ortonville Community Historical Society
Minutes of General Membership Meeting December 10, 2024

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order by the President, Alan, at 6:03 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Recognition of Guests / New Members by Alan A.
4. Attendance: Carol E., Ken B., Pat G, June K, Mary K, Alan A., Tina A, Kistin G, Tom R, MariAnn V., Kathy G, Scott B, Cynthia Schmidt- Mary Ellen and Shauna were absent with notice
5. Approval of Agenda: motion to accept by MariAnn, second Mary K – approved
6. Approval of Minutes from Nov. 12 General Membership Meeting - motion by Kathy second by Mary K - to accept the minutes with the deletion of the word “agenda” and addition of the word “minutes” - approved
7. Executive Officer Reports
 - a. *President* -Alan
 - Went to the DDA meeting: One item discussed was the streetscape initiative as well as the DDA survey. Alan offered ideas relating to the streetscape which included more electrical poles, wreathes, etc, as well improvements in sidewalk in front of mill. – Alan will discuss the pillars diagram at the January DDA meeting –
 - Worked with David Fleet for suggestions for Veteran’s Day for paper
 - Met with our newsletter editor
 - Took the leftovers from Bake Sale and made into “care packages” and took to DPW, Village offices, Parks and Rec
 - b. *Vice President* – Shauna – no report
 - c. *Secretary* – Carol – no report
 - d. *Treasurer* – Scott -Treasurer’s report – Motion to accept by Kristin and second by Mary – approved. Scott worked as cashier for Saturday of Christmas in the Village and noted that the bake sale items were really nice and decorative. There was less traffic because a lot had come through Friday night and didn’t come back on Saturday. About the same amount of money was generated as last year but with less traffic. He noted that that there were some items we could perhaps have charged a bit more for.
8. Trustee Reports
 - a. Kathy G. – no report
 - b. Kathy T. – no report
 - c. Ken B. – no report
 - d. LuAnn M. – no report
 - e. Mary K. – suggestion to avoid having meetings in the main room on the cleaning days in the main room – perhaps have the meeting in the office
 - f. Mary Alice S.
9. Project Reports
 - a. *School Program* – Next action belongs to the school. Judy M is waiting for the school so there are currently no updates. Report from Tina regarding modifying the current tours to be more engaging for students including selection of certain artifacts and maybe a new display. Alan added that he felt the people doing the current tour are already making adjustments for tours. Therefore, instead of making changes perhaps we should work on getting more students for tours.
 - b. *Architectural Services* – nothing new
 - c. *Remote Vignettes in Vacant Storefronts* – DDA person (Allison Reis) has been chosen to be in charge of this project. She recently toured the mill to get ideas.

d. *Downtown Walking Tour and Student Narration* – Carol reported that 6 Brandon High students have recorded narration to be used for the digital version of the walking tour. The sound clips will be added to the App the DDA will be using on their new website.

10. Event Reports – Past and future

a. *Christmas in the Village, Dec. 6 and 7*

- Living Nativity – did not work out
- No blacksmith – Tom got Covid
- Alan stated that the community was smiling during the event and at one time there were 25 kids in school. Miss Fran was sending kids over from the library. There were few riders for hay wagon according to Scott. Tina, however, reported she had seen saw a couple of wagon loads of people. Overall there seemed to be no problems.

b. *Christmas Undecoration Day, Dec. 28* – Alan reported we will undecorate and could use plastic tubs to replace the old cardboard boxes. Scott will purchase some if we don't get donations.

c. *Jan. 14, Winter Banquet* – Alan has heard from several who want to come. Alan got a tentative head count at the meeting

- Volunteers: when event gets closer we will look for volunteers- likely people need to come to set up and clean up
- Approval to spend funds (Board) – Scott made a motion to allow Alan to spend up to \$300 for the banquet – second by Mary K – roll call of Board – motion passed
- Tina will be in charge of food – if members want to bring a dessert please do so – bring enough for about 10 people

d. *May 3, Vintage Sale (M15 Garage Sale)* – Alan will try to get the vendor from last year to see if she will coordinate vendors this year

11. Unfinished Business

a. *Village Agreement* – Alan reported no change so far and when he talks with DDA he will tell them of the situation.

12. New Business

a. *Event Planning for 2025* -Alan suggested that discussion for events should be started over the winter – Alan presented a calendar with events we usually are involved in including our Saturdays – a variety of events were discussed including an art/music small festival, evening presentations, co-sponsored events with the library – Barber Shop Quartet – home tours – antique appraisal – 2026 projects relating to America250 – Alan suggested members think about a project they might like to coordinate

13. Roundtable/Announcements – Alan did a short presentation on the Japanese flags owned by the museum – John Fross's exchange student from Japan helped Alan interpret them – one from Dec. 23, 1945 was the type people were bringing home – another was a true example of a Japanese Good Luck Flag carried by Japanese soldiers and filled with well wishes -often brought back to the U.S. after taking them off a body or a prisoner – also a third flag filled with names – had markings showing it was blessed – Alan proposed that we consider repatriating the flag -

14. Adjourn –motion by Tina and second by Kathy T – approved.