

**Ortonville Community Historical Society**  
**Minutes for General Membership Meeting February 11, 2025 at 6:00pm**

1. Call to Order- Alan called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Recognition of Guests / New Members – no guest or new members
4. Attendance – Carol E., Ken B, Sandy M, Tina A, Tom R., Mari Ann V., Scott B, Grace G, Kathy G, Mary K, Shauna Q – Absent with notice - Kathy Thurman
5. Approval of Agenda – motion to accept by Shauna and second by Ken with an addition to New Business added by Scott B: (c) Discussion of CD's - motion approved
6. Approval of Minutes from the December 10 General Membership Meeting – motion to approve by Mary K and second by Scott - approved
7. Treasurer's Report by Scott - nothing new to report – motion to accept by Tina second by Shauna - approved
8. Summary of Jan 28 Board Meeting - Shauna gave a summary
7. Executive Officer Reports
  - a. President – Alan shared that Grace's photo was in *The Citizen* paper for Valentine's Day. He added that he is hoping to have *The Citizen* do a story on the repatriation of the Japanese flags so he has talked to David Fleet about that. Alan also shared that the DDA has a new website and our OCHS events can be listed there. We have a spot for OCHS and one for the Old Mill. The URL is [downtownortonville.org](http://downtownortonville.org) . Finally, he added that Dennis Hoffman is joining OCHS.
  - b. Vice President - Shauna shared that she is updating the membership list and working to get online membership payments available
  - c. Secretary - Carol explained that the sign-in sheet was not available due to a printer problem so a new column has been added to the sign-in sheet used for the December meeting
  - d. Treasurer - Scott B. – nothing new to report
8. Trustee Reports:
  - a. Kathy G. – Kathy and Mary have started the display of Depression glass for the kitchen area. Kathy also explained that there have been inquiries regarding a telegram upstairs that is fading. Therefore, Kathy and Mary are thinking of adding something to the window to cut down on the light coming in. Finally, they are planning to re-do the dining area.
  - b. Kathy T. – absent with notice
  - c. Ken B.- no report
  - d. LuAnn M. – absent
  - e. Mary K. – Mary has been in contact with the lumberjacks at Mackinac City. She reported that \$3400 was needed to book an event with them. This included hotel accommodations for two nights for two rooms. They would do three shows in a day which included chopping, log rolling, etc. They would need a lot of water from the fire department and also power would be required.

Discussion followed. Carol suggested we could consider working with another historical society on this project. Shauna shared that she felt it was a reasonable fee for what we would be getting and perhaps we could have special fund raisers for it. She also shared that the library sponsored a tractor pull at Septemberfest last year and perhaps that is a connection also. The idea was tabled for the present. Finally, Mary reminded the group that floors need to be done because the cleaners will not be here until April.

f. Mary Alice S.- absent

## 9. Project Reports

- a. School Program - no update from Judy. Tina asked if we could find someone who would contact other groups like Scouts who might be interested in bringing their group to the Old Mill for a tour. She suggested that perhaps group leaders could first come for a tour. Sandy added that Steve Hoffman of the VFW has contact information for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and maybe he could help.
- b. Architecture Services – Alan reported that board members recently met with Ron Campbell and were asked to give him all our “hopes and dreams” of what the Old Mill and campus could be during a brainstorming session. Examples of projects discussed included re-working of the west section of building, fixing the sidewalk, a lift to get to second floor and stairs into the side of the hill in the back. Ron will be coming back to do some measurements and then will be creating some architectural plans. He will also look at any code violations and offer possible solutions to problems such as water in the basement. Tina added that there are smaller construction projects to be done that are needed such as handrails to the entrance to the school. She suggested that we could ask the membership if someone might be able to help with some of these small projects. It was suggested that perhaps Mark Evans who has retired from the school district might be willing to help with something. Shauna added that we could make a master list of everyone’s ideas for both big and small projects.
- c. Remote Vignette at Village Office - Mari Ann V. met with Kathy and Mary K. She noted that the Village office has a display that has been there for a long time. The three of them will work on a new display. Mari Ann will empty it out and re-do the showcase. She added that she may rotate it every three months or so. Her goal will be trying to focus on the mill and having artifacts like flour bags, etc. Over time family displays may also be included.
- d. Remote Vignettes in Vacant Storefronts - Alan reported that this is a DDA project. It will make use of the kiosk information we had before but the DDA will print the information on large poster boards to display in empty buildings.
- e. Downtown Walking Tour and Student Narration - Carol reported that this project will be launched in May which is Historic Preservation Month.
- f. Heat in Office - Alan got it fixed and the Village paid the bill.

## 10. Event Reports – Past and future

- a. Dec 28 – Christmas Undecoration Day – Alan reported that everything has been placed in new crates



- b. Jan 14 – Winter Banquet- Tina reported that 40 people came. The event included a great slide show which people enjoyed and everyone appeared to have a good time. Mari Ann added that she thought it was a great event.
  - c. Feb 1 – Winter Market (1 of 2) - Mari Ann and Sandy both reported that it was awesome and so much fun. About 150 people attended the event. Mari Ann added that there were 12 vendors in the Town Hall and there was no admission charge. Raffle tickets adding up to \$140.00 were sold by Sandy and Mari Ann. The next event is Feb. 22.
  - d. Feb 22 – Winter Market (2 of 2) - Mari Ann and Sandy plan to do it again.
  - e. Mar 11 – “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory” - Alan will be doing a presentation at the Library focusing on Ortonville in the Civil War.
  - f. Mar (date to be announced) – Brandon H.S. Welding Class @ BS Shop - Tom reported that the class will visit the blacksmith shop
  - g. May 3 – Vintage Sale (M15 Garage Sale) - Alan reported that there was a great turnout and lots of visitors last year at the event. The owners of the antique shop across from A and W are interested in the Vintage Sale this year and they can get more vendors also.
  - h. June 3 – “The Power of Fire and Heat” - Tom will be doing a presentation at the library for the first half of this event and then people will go to the Blacksmith shop to see things in action.
  - i. Sept 13 – SeptemberFest - Alan reported that John Hug of Parks and Recreation says he will be putting more stuff near the Old Mill this coming year.
  - j. TBD – Home Tours (exploring)- Mary K. reported that OCHS has had home tours in the past but she did not personally work on the project.
  - k. TBD – Log Sawing Demonstrations (exploring) - Mary K. – see information above
  - l. TBD – Antique Appraisal Events (exploring) - Alan reported that the antique shop people near A and W are not currently interested in this project. Sandy has offered to make a call to see about someone doing this perhaps in April. Alan suggested that the goal should be to increase traffic not so much fundraising.
11. Unfinished Business
- a. Village Agreement - Alan reported that we are essentially back at square one on this project and that Matt Ryan seems to need more background information.
12. New Business
- a. May 17 – Friends of Amos Spring Garden Market: Alan asked the group if we wanted to participate. He suggested that we could let vendors use space around the Old Mill. Carol will check into what the natural resources staff of Oakland County Parks might be able to offer.
  - b. July 5 – Farmer’s Market Theme is Miracle Box Packing – Alan reported that OCHS has been asked if we could host the event at the Old Mill. Members were very supportive of the idea
  - c. Scott B – CD issue - Scott reported that our CD’s renew every year and Scott is suggesting to roll over for another year. motion by Scott second Ken – roll call vote – all in favor
13. Roundtable/Announcements - Grace reported that she will be taking rugs off the loom soon. People have been helping with finishing the rugs – e.g. two people from Grace’s chair exercise

group. Tina suggested she would like to encourage members to take on small projects so maybe the Newsletter could have a column called "Volunteer Opportunities." This could also be repeated on the website. She reminded the group that we need a lot more done than just tour guides. Mari Ann mentioned meeting three couples new to the community at the Winter Market who were not aware of the Old Mill and the historical society. The group discussed the idea of having a 'card' similar to the one for the Blacksmith Shop that could be shared at events. Shauna reported that she had designed that one and will design another. Carol suggested asking the DDA to cover the printing of these new cards. Alan reported that the next scheduled meeting is March 11 but he would not be available due to his presentation at the library. The group decided to move the meeting to March 18 because of this.

14. Next Meeting / Adjourn – motion by Ken second by Shauna - approved