

**Ortonville Community Historical Society  
Minutes for General Membership Meeting March 18, 2025 at 6:00pm  
Old Mill Museum  
366 Mill Street  
Ortonville, MI 48462**

*"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 – 6:00pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Recognition of Guests / New Members
4. Attendance – Officers: President Alan Allgaier, Treasurer Scott Broughton. Trustees: Kathy Thurman, Mary Kassuba, Kathy Gauthier, Ken Bush. Members: Mari Ann Vargo, John Fross, Bob Mills. Absent with notice: Shauna Quick, Carol Egbo, Luann Mann.
5. Approval of Agenda – Motion to accept by Kathy T, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary K - passed
6. Approval of Minutes, Feb 11 Gen. Membership Meeting – Motion to accept by Kathy T, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken B - passed
7. Treasurer's Report – Motion to accept by Kathy T, second by Ken B - passed
8. Executive Officer Reports
  - a. President – Alan presented our Strategic Plan at the last DDA meeting; positive reaction from Village President Ken Quisenberry. Called for student volunteers at BGYA breakfast. Invited to participate in "Visit Oakland County" Focus group. Will be transitioning social media responsibilities to Drew Morecci.
  - b. Vice President - absent
  - c. Secretary - absent
  - d. Treasurer - Scott reported annual Dues were due March 1.
9. Trustee Reports
  - a. Kathy G – Working on depression glass displays with Mary K.
  - b. Kathy T – Working on bylaws and procedures subcommittee, will be ready to present at board meeting next week.
  - c. Ken – Planning to give a DUR presentation at the Library this summer.
  - d. Mary – Working on depression glass displays with Kathy G. Cleaning the silver dish sets which is coming out very nicely.

## 10. Project Reports

- a. School Program – getting a cool reception from the schools.
- b. Architecture Services – Alan – gathered existing architectural diagrams to share with Ron Campbell
- c. Remote Vignette at Village Office – Mari Ann Vargo – completed, Village is pleased, will change out the display periodically to keep it fresh.
- d. Remote Vignettes in Vacant Storefronts – Alan – text and photos to recreate three kiosks (Mill Pond, Grange Hall and Farming, and Moving the Mann School) were provided to the DDA, who created draft layouts to hang in the windows of the vacant store that was previously Restyled Creations. These displays will be professionally printed; they are about 3' wide and 4' tall; likely will be completed before the next OCHS meeting.
- e. Downtown Walking Tour and Student Narration – Carol - Tabled

## 11. Event Reports – Past and future

- a. Feb 21 – Winter Market (2 of 2) – Mari Ann – great success, fun time, raised money for the Mill. Looking forward to participating next year.
- b. Mar 11 – “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory” - Ortonville in the Civil War – Alan reported a strong turnout for this presentation at the Library.
- c. May 3 – Vintage Sale (M15 Garage Sale) – Alan - not a strong turnout of vendor applications yet; we will participate ourselves, and OCHS members will set up tables as well.
- d. May 17 – Friends of Amos Spring Garden Market – Shauna will run a Kids craft, either in the school or outside. Alan is exploring bringing baby farm animals (petting zoo style), either from Abraham Ranch or Cooks Farm Dairy. Kathy T. will explore also.
- e. June 3 – “The Power of Fire and Heat” – Tom - tabled
- f. July 5 – Miracle Box Packing – Alan – Met with Farmer’s Market, we will do the Miracle Box packing at our campus on this day, either inside or outside under the big tent. We will set up collection boxes at our location June 14, and collection boxes will also be set up at the Farmer’s Market HQ table, the Village Offices, and at the Brandon High School.
- g. Sept 13 – SeptemberFest – SeptemberFest committee is receptive to Jack Pine Lumberjack show as a major anchor event; but the Show is already booked for this year on that date; looking to implement it next year.



h. TBD – Home Tours – Mary needs assistance in exploring this; Alan to contact Allison Reis from the DDA (who lives in a historic home and is a realtor) about providing guidance.

i. TBD – Antique Appraisal Events – Sandy provided Alan with the name of an antique appraiser, Alan to reach out. Group consensus is the purpose of this event is to increase visitor attendance at the mill, and not as a fundraising event.

## 12. Unfinished Business

a. Village Agreement – Alan reports no progress.

## 13. New Business

a. Obituaries – Mary has been saving obituaries from The Citizen, and was considering ceasing that activity. Group consensus is that this work is valuable; Mary will continue.

b. July 23 – Mountain Dulcimer Concert - Alan is in contact with Nancy Ball to potentially perform a public concert at our campus on July 23. Group consensus is positive that this could be a good event.

c. Permission for Sue Howard paintings ((Township) – Alan reports that Brandon Township Parks and Rec is interested in using the Sue Howard artwork for some promotional materials; OCHS owns the rights to the artwork. Group consensus is that we should look for a way to make that happen, as long as we can ensure that such permission stays with Brandon Township only, and that the artwork is respected in how it is used.

d. Volunteer Opportunities - Alan shared a list of shovel-ready volunteer opportunities; it will be continuously updated and made available for members to see. Mary volunteered to take on the Witches Night program, and Scott volunteered to take on Halloween.

e. Mill Coverage Calendar - Alan reminded the group that as visitor count will increase in April, we need to ensure we have people available on Saturdays at the Mill. Sign up on the calendar in the Mill.

## 14. Roundtable/Announcements - None

15. Next Meeting / Adjourn - Next General Membership meeting is April 8, 6pm at the Mill. Motion to adjourn by Kathy T., 2<sup>nd</sup> by John F, meeting adjourned.