

Ortonville Community Historical Society
Minutes of General Membership Meeting April 8, 2025

1. Call to Order – Meeting called to order by the President, Alan, at 6:00 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Recognition of Guests / New Members by Alan A. – welcome to Dennis Hoffman, new member
4. Attendance: Alan A, Kathy G, Mary K, Mary Alice S, Carol E, Dennis Hoffman, Scott B, Grace G, Judy M. Absent with Notice: Shauna
5. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve by Scott and second by Dennis H – approved
6. Approval of Minutes from March 18 General Membership Meeting: motion to approve by Mary and second by Kathy G - approved
7. Treasurer's Report - nothing unusual to report except that the raffle income from the Winter Markets was roughly \$310 for both dates: motion to accept by Carol and second by Mary Alice - approved
8. Executive Officer Reports
 - a. *President* – Alan reported that OCHS was in *The Citizen* newspaper again with an article on the Japanese flag that we are keeping and the Ann Walters article. At our last meeting we talked about a list of volunteer activities and John Fross took the list to the high school recently. As a result, a student has volunteered to digitize our accession records by putting them into an Excel spreadsheet. Alan also reported that he represented OCHS at a recent DDA new meeting called Community Connect where DDA members meet with business, social groups, etc. There were not a lot of participants but Alan reminded the group that it often takes a while to get these things started. Alan also noted that the Board talked about our strategic plan at its last meeting and specifically discussed developing a branding guide and determining what we want our museum to focus on. Alan also represented OCHS at the recent meeting of the History Coalition of Oakland County. That meeting focused on digitization of collections. He reported that he had learned that the State of Michigan will loan a scanning kit to historical societies and Biz Gallo from the Library of Michigan will offer consultant services and help us evaluate our collection. Alan felt this could be an excellent opportunity for high school students to assist OCHS.
 - b. *Vice President* – Shauna – no report - absent
 - c. *Secretary* – Carol – Gave a summary of the Board minutes from the last meeting.
 - d. *Treasurer* – Scott -Treasurer's report – nothing additional
9. Trustee Reports
 - a. Kathy G. – Kathy and Mary have been moving displays around. They asked the group if they thought the Girl Scout display should be moved and if so where. They felt the basement is not a good spot. If people come up with any ideas they should contact them.
 - b. Kathy T. – nothing to report except that she has a healthy new grandson
 - c. Ken B. – no report – not present
 - d. LuAnn M. – no report – not present
 - e. Mary K. – She asked LuAnn about home tours and whether Ken Sutton had information in his books. She will look at who was responsible and how they did it. Mary also asked whether or not we have heat in the office. Alan answered “no” but that further information would be discussed later in the meeting.
 - f. Mary Alice S. – She reported that she had a fall which is something that hasn't happened to her before. She slipped on a rug and has been in pain since then so she has not been doing much. She also stated that she wanted to tell the group that when the society was first started they needed a sponsor and the Woman's Club was a sponsor. She reminded the group that the village wanted to tear the mill down because it needed so much work. She reminded the group how hard it was to save the mill and get the society started. She gave an example of how complicated it was to replace the windows on the second floor and also shared some Ortonville history like the time the hotel burned. Alan commented that it is good to have a moment of history in our historical society meetings and thanked Mary Alice
10. Project Reports

- a. *School Program* – Judy Miracle had a meeting with Jason Shelton who takes the students to Washington D C each year and he suggested that perhaps those kids who don't go to DC could come to the Old Mill on Oct 17. This would be about 50 8th grade students. Judy will be the project manager for this project. Judy also reported that regarding the elementary grades she has been working with curriculum director. There is a meeting to discuss ideas on April 30. They are still trying to determine what grade level to come every year. Judy is thinking 3rd grade. Carol and Alan are hoping to go to with Judy to the meeting. The school district would also like Alan to visit the school to do his Civil War presentation.
- b. *Architectural Services* – Alan reported that he saw Ron Campbell at the History Coalition meeting history and he is working on the architectural plan for the Old Mill. Scott asked if he had come back to the mill yet and Alan reported that he had not but would be coming back in the near future.
- c. *Remote Vignettes at Village Office* – no report
- d. *Remote Vignettes in Vacant Storefronts* – Alan announced that the boards are done and will be mounted on wooden kiosks and going into the empty Restyled Creations building. Boards will feature the Grange Hall and Farming, the Mill pond and Moving of the Mann School
- e. *Downtown Walking Tour and Student Narration* – Carol - still in progress

11. Event Reports – Past and future

- a. May 3 – Vintage Sale (M15 Garage Sale) Alan reported that more vendors have signed up including Faye's Bread, The Washing Board and also handmade baskets/vintage crafts, and more
- b. May 17 – Friends of Amos Spring Garden Market - Alan A, Shauna Q. – Shauna is going to run a craft for kids. Jeff Jones may be willing to bring some of his farm animals for that day but this is still in the exploratory stage.
- c. June 3 – “The Power of Fire and Heat” Tom R. -
- d. July 5 – Miracle Box Packing – This will be done at the Old Mill on this date because Alan has worked it out with the DDA. It will be done outside weather permitting. Collections will begin on June 17. Alan will get a list of what is needed. There is also the possibility of getting the football team to help.
- e. July 23 – An Evening with the Mountain Echoes Dulcimer Troop- Alan reported that this is an in-house program right here at the mill
- f. Sept 13 – SeptemberFest - Alan has been attending SeptemberFest meetings. He reported that Bueche's will donate pies if we want to expand to an adult pie eating contest this year.
- g. Oct 11(?) – Witches Night Mary K.- nothing yet
- h. Oct 31 – Halloween Scott B. – still too learly
- i. TBD – Home Tours Alan A. / Mary K.
- j. TBD – Antique Appraisal Events (exploring) Alan A. Sandy M. – no update
- k. TBD – DUR presentation @ Library Ken B.

12. Unfinished Business -- *Village Agreement* – Alan reported that the village will replace the furnace in the month of June.

13. New Business

- a. *Tourist Season* – Brochures/Handouts, Coverage Calendar - Alan A. reported that there is a calendar for people to sign up for Saturdays. He also pointed out the rack near the counter in front with relevant documents like membership forms, tour guides, etc which have now been placed in the rack. Alan has also added the Junior Historian certificates to the rack.
14. Roundtable/Announcements – Dennis Hoffman reported that on May 17 flags will be placed on the Veteran's graves at Seymour Lake Cemetery and the Ortonville Cemetery. He also reported that this year the DDA will place Veteran's names , rank, etc. on poles which is a project called Hometown Heroes. They will hopefully up by May 1. Grace reported that she recently took off 14 rugs from the loom.

15. Adjourn – *motion by Scott – Judy second - approved*