

Ortonville Community Historical Society
Minutes for General Membership Meeting July 8, 2025 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: Alan A.- 6 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance All
3. Recognition of Guests / New Members Alan A.
4. Attendance / Sign-in: Carol E, Alan A, Mary K, Scott B, Shauna, Sandy M, Dennis H, MariAnn V, Wren F, Ken B
5. Approval of Agenda: An addition was made to Events Reports – motion to approve with addition by Shauna second by Mary K - approved
6. Approval of Minutes, Jun 10 Gen. Membership Meeting: - Orion Historical Society visit is July 15 not July 22 – motion to approve with correction Mary k – second MariAnn - approved
7. Treasurer's Report: Scott B.- nothing unusual in his submitted report - motion to accept by Scott and second by MariAnn
8. Executive Officer Reports
 - a. **President:** Alan A. reported that at the recent Mainstreet Event the Cemetery Walk was nominated for an award but did not win. He also reminded members of the article in *The Citizen* about the Farmer's Market at the Mill and its importance as a cooperative project and also the story on the problem with the flag pole and the person who volunteered to help. He also mentioned two videos: one from the *Echoes in the Iron* group working on a series about small town America and one from Ortonville TV and a person named Griffin who is filming short videos such as one on Amos Orton. He also reported that the Library has formed a committee to help plan its 100th birthday celebration and Alan has been asked to serve on it. Also Beuches wants to have some historical photos to enlarge for the store
 - b. **Vice President:** Shauna Q. reported that since we approved the Branding Guide she has updated the website with our new font and new color scheme.
 - c. **Secretary** Carol E. -nothing
 - d. **Treasurer** Scott B.- reminder dues are due on August 1
9. Trustee Reports
 - Kathy G. - absent
 - Kathy T. absent
 - Ken B. nothing
 - LuAnn M. absent

Mary K. reported that the Handicapped sign needs to be replaced for the ramp on the school because it is missing. Also another one on the fence at the handicapped spot
Mary Alice S absent

10. Project Reports

- a. **Nominating/Election Committee** – Scott reported but he is not on the committee this year but reported that from what he knows Mary Alice and LuAnn are not running again.
- b. **Downtown Walking Tour and Student Narration**- Carol E. reported that the App is up and working for the walking tour and has been getting good feedback. Alan A suggested that we might try a similar project for the old mill.
- c. **Architecture Services** - Alan A.- met with Ron Campbell and he spent time looking at the whole site. Ron also mentioned a transportation grant for possible funding
- d. **Furnace Replacement** - Alan A. reported the village has put down 50% for a new furnace. It will not be able to be place in the basement.
- e. **Temporary Signage** - Alan A. reported that although it is really a board issue we have our Branding Guide and Alan is pricing some new signs and he will share the information with the board.

11. Event Reports – Past

- a. June 12 – “The Power of Fire and Heat” blacksmith demo- Tom R. Alan reported that “it was awesome” and a good example of a joint effort with the Library. The program received many positive remarks and we will likely do it again next year.
- b. July 5 – Farmer’s Market / Miracle Box Packing - Alan/Tina – packed 216 boxes and got \$1000+ in donations – attendance was 263 visitors -
- c. July 7 – Boy Scout Blacksmith Demo- Tom R.-

12. Event Reports - Future

- a. July 15 3:30pm– Onsite Visit - From Orion Historical Society - Alan A. reported that they did not get as many as they anticipated – less than 20 – and it would help if other OCHS members could be present.
- b. July 23 6pm – Concert - Mountain Echoes Dulcimer Troop -Alan A reported that they will be doing the concert in the mill in the doctor’s office unless it is too hot. In that case the main room will be used
- c. July 26 10am-12pm – Demo/Class - Intro to Crochet - Alan A. reported that a fiber artist will be coming to do a demo on crocheting.
- d. Sept 13 – SeptemberFest - Alan A. reported that so far plans are for pie baking, pie eating, and butter churning activities. AriAnn V will be in charge of butter churning this year.
- e. Sept 27 – Art at the Mill - Alan A. reported that Olivia from the DDA is running this – times will be: 9AM to 5 PM

- f. Oct 3(?) – 8th Grade Museum Tour (?) - Judy M. – no further info
- g. Oct 11 – Witches Night - Mary K. has an upcoming meeting. We will not be doing tours that night
- h. Oct 31 – Halloween - Scott - no changes this year
- i. Dec 5-6 Christmas in Village - Alan A. reported that planning meetings start for that this month – Alan will be attending
- j. Oct 15 and Oct 18 – Carol E. reported on a bus trip planned sponsored by the Oakland History Center and Oakland County Parks that will culminate at the Old Mill. -- motion to participate by Alan – second by Scott - approved

12. Unfinished Business

13. New Business

- a. **Special Exhibit area:** Main room -- Alan A. pointed out a shelf in the room for a special exhibit and Wren offered the idea of putting an ax and other tools used to hand hewn the beams. Wren will work on a display with Ken B's help
- b. **Operations checklists:** Open, Close, Maintenance - Alan A. suggested we develop checklists for these activities.
- c. **Donation Records** – Computer Entry -Tina A. is taking our lists/cards, etc of all our artifact donations and she will be creating an Excel database.

- 14. Roundtable/Announcements - Scott wants to put signage on the mill model – Shauna announced she is taking a job with the Library of Michigan – Dennis H mentioned a video with all the home town heroes. He also shared that August 4 will be the Purple Heart program at the Library. He reminded the group that Ortonville is the only town on the Purple Heart highway in Oakland County – Mary K announced that there is a thank you on the office bulletin board from the cleaning company thanking us for our donation – Alan announced that the tent is now being stored in the outhouse.

- 15. Next Meeting / Adjourn – motion by Mary K and second by Ken B – adjourned at 8:03

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Bacak-Egbo, OCHS secretary