

Ortonville Community Historical Society
Minutes from the General Membership Meeting September 9, 2025 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:** Alan at 6 PM
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** All
3. **Recognition of Guests / New Members:** Dwayne? Gatzmeyer (spelling?) former member
4. **Attendance:** Carol E. Mary Alice S, Kathy T, Tom R, Sandy M, Mary K, Kathy G, Grace G, Dennis H, Dwayne G, Mari Ann V, Ken B, Scott B, Alan A
5. **Approval of Agenda:** motion to approve by Kathy T and second by Mary Alice - approved
6. **Approval of Minutes,** August 12 Gen. Membership Meeting – motion to approve by Kathy T. and second by Mary K - approved
7. **Treasurer’s Report:** Scott B reported that it had been a fairly slow month. We did get the printer that had been purchased. motion to accept report by Kathy G – second by Kathy T - approved
8. **Executive Officer Reports**
 - a. **President** – *The Citizen* newspaper is celebrating 30 years so Alan invited the paper to put together a display for the Old Mill – Alan also reported that he and Carol Egbo are sitting on the Library 100th committee. As part of that celebration, Alan has offered to let the library have a history display at the Old Mill
 - b. **Vice President** - Shauna - absent
 - c. **Secretary** – Carol – no report
 - d. **Treasurer** - Scott reported that he had attended the BGYA meeting where he learned we have dropped pie eating fee until \$20. Alan confirmed and explained the reason for the change.
9. **Trustee Reports** - **Kathy G.** – no report
Kathy T - no report
Ken - no report
LuAnn - absent

Mary K.- reported that there was a meeting for Witch's Night Out. There will be no tours this year during that event and only our first floor will be open. Three tarot card readers will be in the Dr. Office. She reminded the group that Ortonville is known for having the best Witch's Night.

Mary Alice – no report

10. Project Reports

- a. **Nominating/Election Committee** -- Kathy T. reported that she put together a ballot and has sent it to Scott and it is done.
- b. **Temporary Signage** - Alan displayed a few of the new signs
- c. **Donations Records** – Computer Entry – Alan reported that Tina continues to work on this project

11. Event Reports – Past

- .a. **Aug 19 Hadley Mill Museum Tour** -- Alan reported that many of our members had attended and enjoyed the tour. Scott added that he recommends following their events and trying to attend some.

12. Event Reports - Future

- a. **Sept 13 – SeptemberFest** -- 10am starting time -

- ❖ **Pie Baking Contest** -- Mary reported that Shauna has it all under control
 - 10am-12pm Dropoff
 - 12pm-1pm Judging (nonpublic) – but done in the office
 - 1pm Winners Announced
 - 1pm- pie slice distribution. They will be given away but a donation box will be placed nearby.
- ❖ **Pie Eating Contest** (12:30-1pm) - Alan – This event will be in the street. There is a \$30 prize for the winner from Parks and Re.
- ❖ **Butter Churning** (10am-12pm) -- Mari Ann reported that she has met with others and everything is all set
- ❖ **Rotary Club Duck Race** (3:30pm)
- ❖ **Front Door Greeter Signup** - Alan reminded the group that we had talked about a “zone defense” with docents at certain places in the Old Mill but he has decided that was going to be too much to try and pull off. Therefore, we will just be having Front Door Greeters instead in one hour shifts. Several people signed up to help.

NOTE: for Septemberfest Alan made a special version of our Self-guided tour for the day. He also created round stickers to give people saying they have visited the mill.

- b. **Sept 27 – Art at the Mill** (10am-6pm) - Alan reported that over 30 vendors have already signed up and that our obligation is to have the mill open. We will provide tours for this event.
- c. **Oct 11 – Witches Night** (3pm-9pm) - Mary reported that we could still use more help for that night.
- d. **Oct 15, 18 – Oakland Co. Parks Museum Tour** – Carol reported that she will soon have final numbers for the tour.
- e. **Oct 31 – Halloween** - Scott reported that he will get candy from the Village.
- f. **Nov 15 - Christmas Decoration Day** - Alan reminded the group of this event.
- g. **Dec 5-6 Christmas in Village** - Alan reported that the parade will go on Mill Street right past our building. BFYA will do a Christmas craft in the school on Friday night. He is also looking at the possibility of a Smores station with a campfire on the blacksmith pad or perhaps using the forge.
- h. **Jan 3 – Christmas Undecoration Day** – Alan reminded the group of this event.
- i. **May 16 2026 – SAR – Road to Liberty kickoff** - Alan reported that the event will probably include some re-enactors. It is still in the early planning stage.

13. Unfinished Business

14. New Business

- a. **Winter Hours / Housekeeping** - Alan/Mary K. – One issue is that we get a lot of salt on the floor. Therefore, should we have the housekeeping people do winter also? If we do that one issue is that we'd need to make sure the building was warm when they are here. - Mary will ask the housekeeping crew.

15. **Roundtable/Announcements** - All – Dennis H reported that the VFW will have food, (Hot dogs, etc) for Septemberfest. Sandy is donating some hot chocolate mix. Scott noticed that the furnace is now covered by some louvered wooden doors that look cool . Alan had taken care of this - Alan added a piece of history by reporting that someone donated a book about the Revolution which included information regarding Perry Lake which was named for Samuel Perry. Ichabod Perry was his grandfather and was a Revolutionary War soldier.

16. **Next Meeting / Adjourn** – Scott made a motion to adjourn –Ken second -approved