

Ortonville Community Historical Society
MINUTES for Board Meeting January 27, 2026
Old Mill – 366 South Street, Ortonville, MI 48462

“The Ortonville Community Historical Society shall work with local government, businesses, organizations and citizens of all age to research, collect and safeguard our local heritage through living displays and authentic educational experiences.”

Roll Call: Alan A., Kathy T., Mari Ann V., Ken B

Approval of Agenda for Board Meeting 1/27/2026: Kathy T. motioned to approve, Alan seconded the agenda approval.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Board Meet ~ These were not available this night, and Kathy T. motioned the Minutes approval be moved to the next Board Meeting, while Ken B. seconded.

Executive Officer Reports

President:

Alan gave thankful mention of Schoolhouse door lock repair work done by Marty Vargo, donating his carpentry services

Alan addressed rumor re Brandon v. Ortonville; suggested we remain neutral to support the community in our mission to ‘build community value’.

Vice President:

Mari Ann added appreciation for Kathy T.’s certificates she very nicely prepared, and which were presented at the Winter Banquet earlier in January. MAV noted it may be appropriate to recognize more regular or outstanding volunteerism next year.

Secretary:

Carol E. not in attendance tonight.

Treasurer:

(Pro Tempore) Alan presented the Financial Reports which Kathy T. motioned to file & receive, and Ken B. seconded.

Trustee Reports: Ken B. will do his DUR presentation at the BPTL upcoming on 2/03/2026.

Operating Officer Reports / Security Admin: Alan (Pro Tempore) to get Kathy T. an entrance code.

Committee Reports: Procedure Review – Kathy T. taking on chair position since Scott’s recent resignation. Mari Ann V. offered to assist Kathy while they discussed sharing contact info.

Event Report – Past: Reiteration of Winter Banquet and discussion about the nice evening it was.

Event Report – Future:

Vintage Sale 5/02 – Pursuing curator, considering all deaccession items and/or gift shop items
Road to Independence Exhibit / Kickoff 5/16 – AI described plans with SAR (Sons of American Revolution) for content with poster/presentation, metal art, Rev War glass case display of uniform and weaponry; also including a ‘hall of flags’ and a life size ‘signable’ Declaration of Independence’. This will be a grand event, indeed ~ hear ye, hear ye!
Art at the Mill 8/1-2 – Considering a day longer this year (will The Mille be open?) TBD ~

Project Reports:

Gift Shop Refresh – Approval to shift vignette for General Store counter, moving sale items to ‘gift shop’ at large open counter to include new signage, lock drawer, etc.
School Refresh – Discussed and approved plans to review/retain schoolhouse desks and amenities, including deaccessioning non-working pump organs and possibly (preferably) replace with piano (seek possible donation, or from free source).

Unfinished Business:

New Member Process – Mari Ann V. discussed a new welcome letter is near completion.
OCHS Email Answering – Mari Ann V. discussed gaining on this process, but not proficient. Information regarding tracking homestead was obtained from a recent presentation by Carol E. through Oakland County and will become available for reference on our website soon.

New Business:

Motion to fund purchase/installation of dehumidifiers ... Approved for motion by Kathy T.;
Seconded by Mari Ann V.
Motion to fund the Road to Independent exhibit/event . . . Approved for motion by Kathy T.;
Seconded by Ken B.

Roundtable:

- >Official discussion for President to assume/retain Security Administrator duties for the time being (since recent member resignation).
- >Official discussion for President (Alan A.) to retain Treasurer position (Pro Tempore) if a new Treasurer is not placed by 2/10/2026; and at which time the Vice President (Mari Ann Vargo) will be added as a 2nd signing member to the OCHS bank account until a new Treasurer is decided upon and placed. This information was presented to the general membership as notice of vacancy to seek a candidate for election.
- >Kathy T. made a strong recommendation that the OCHS seek a source for legal counsel in case of future events. The Board agreed ~

These Minutes taken by Mari Ann Vargo, acting Secretary for these meeting notes only.