

Ortonville Community Historical Society
MINUTES for Board Meeting March 31, 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., Mari Ann V., Sandy M., Ken B.

. . . Al Showed the giant Declaration of Independence we’ll hang for signing at the 5/16 event.
. . . Al had the Rev War poster presentation produced by the SAR set up for the Board’s review.

Call to order at 6pm and Pledge of Allegiance ~

Approval of Agenda for Board Meeting 3/31/2026: Sandy M. motioned to approve, Mari Ann V. seconded the agenda approval.

Approval of Minutes from (2) Previous Board Meetings were presented for approval. These passed unanimously.

Executive Officer Reports

President:

Vice President: Mari Ann shared that a new Welcome letter is finished and the latest new member process has been implemented, including links to bylaws and the OCHS website and newsletter.

Secretary: Carol E. was not in attendance tonight.

Treasurer: (Pro Tempore) Alan presented the Financial Reports which Sandy M. motioned to file & receive, and Mari Ann V. seconded.

Trustee Reports:

Sandy M. reported an email communique’ has gone out to prospective vendors for the market, especially those who participated last year in hopes to get repeats. Several of us mentioned reposting and promoting market information, however we could via Facebook, etc. MAV offered to assist with follow-up if necessary.

Operating Officer Reports / Security Admin: Alan (Pro Tempore) to get T. Robbins an entrance code for his blacksmithing work on campus.

Event Report – Future:

Vintage Sale 5/02 – Sandy M. taking lead as curator, reaching out to and supporting vendors, but reports no real response to-date. We discussed sending out reminders the week of 4/13

(email/phone calls) to follow up for Vintage Sale space rental. Also briefly discussed deaccession items and/or gift shop items which we might bring up at the regularly scheduled General Meeting (timed for availability before the actual upcoming Sale).

Road to Independence Exhibit / Kickoff 5/16 – AI reiterated event plans with SAR (Sons of American Revolution) having met this week again to review for content and logistics of poster/presentation, metal art, Rev War glass case display of uniform and weaponry; also including the ‘hall of flags’ and the life size ‘signable’ Declaration of Independence’ now decided to be hung on the front of the Blacksmith Shop since it will be set as a stage that day instead of an operational venue.

Second Grade School visit 5/28 – Plans initiated by Judy Miracle, more planning to come. Communications went out from AI to request volunteers in order to commit this date. But this will follow the prior year’s format for (2) classes to visit the campus that day.

America 250 at Oakland History Center 7/25 – AI sharing that we will participate at Blacksmithing but would like some (Civilian) volunteers that day to attend and assist

Project Reports:

Gift Shop Refresh – Shared the notion of consignment opportunities and showed a form which was developed to accommodate the possibility of others having consignment items splitting a 20% commission share with The Old Mill. The Board agreed this was a good time to add the consignment opportunities and procedural form to help grow the gift shop. This would allow us to sell Tom Robbins’ honey and perhaps some antiques from members.

School Refresh – Discussed that schoolhouse desks were separated for ease of moving them. This will be essential to planning more events in the schoolhouse instead of in the museum. We made a motion to deaccession and eliminate the non-working pump organs and possibly (preferably) replace them with a piano (seek possible donation, or from free source). Sandy M. seconded the motion, Ken B. agrees.

Unfinished Business:

Lawyer on retainer – it was agreed that although we don’t have an immediate need, OCHS will consider using a ‘first 4 hours free’ service which is available to us as a municipality IF the need arises. Members agreed unanimously to secure this idea.

New Business:

Gift Shop (Americana/Antiques) sales potential ~ discussed and agreed on consignment policy but in keeping the gift shop tidy with relevant items and not overstocked to clutter. Also further discussed deaccessioning timely for the 5/02 market day. Flagpole broke due to crazy recent heavy winds. Sandy M. suggested telling Dennis H. bc through the veterans he may be able to get our flagpole repaired or replaced.

Roundtable:

Further conversations involving volunteer help which will be needed for 5/02 Vintage Market and the 5/16 America 250 Rev War events . . . spread the word throughout the membership ~ we're seeking docents and campus staff for these big days ahead.

Ken B. motions to ADJOURN at 7:20 pm; Sandy M. seconded it, and all were yays, in favor!

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