

**Ortonville Community Historical Society**  
**Minutes for General Membership Meeting Mar 10, 2026 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
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Recognition of Guests / New Members** – Linda Brooks from the Village of Ortonville attended the meeting. She will be representing the Village Council at OCHS meetings. Bill Rathburg brought Dr. Uloff’s receipt machine to donate to OCHS.
4. **Attendance:** Carol E, Alan A, Tina A, Kathy T, tom R, Stan H, Dennis H, Kathleen G, Frank S, Sandy M, Mary K,
5. **Approval of Agenda:** motion to approve by Kathy T – second by Stan - approved
6. **Approval of Minutes, Feb Gen. Membership Meeting:** Kathy motion to approve by Kathy T – second by Frank - approved
7. **Treasurer’s Report** – Alan (temporary) – gave report – motion to accept by Kathy T – second Tina - approved
8. **Executive Officer Reports**
  - a. President - Alan reported that the DDA has applied for a grant for pedestrian safety in front of the Old Mill. An amount of \$60,000 was applied for. This could result in a great improvement in our front porch. The awards are to be made on May 1. Alan also related that he will be attending a meeting at Waterford Oaks Event Center regarding a county event for America250
  - b. Vice President - Mari Ann was absent with cause
  - c. Secretary - Carol – no report
  - d. Treasurer - Alan (temporary treasurer) reported that does are dues
9. **Trustee Reports** – Kathy T. , who is in charge of doing bylaws revisions, asked the members to contact her with any concerns or suggestions regarding the bylaws  
Ken - absent  
Sandy – nothing to report
10. **Project Reports**

- a. School refresh progress - Alan reported that the desks have been separated from their runners so they are much easier to move. As a result, we will have much more space for a meeting/presentation in the school.
- b. Gift shop - refresh progress -- Tina reported gift shop is up and running and we now have a locked cash drawer again. The key marked 'cash drawer' is in the office. She reported that most everything in gift shop is a donation. Everything has a price tag on it. Tina would like to do a 'training session' about gift shop procedures like keeping track of things that are sold. This will help us to track what is purchased. She reminded members that we need to make sure the money goes in the cash box not the donation box. One gift shop item that was not donated is the stick candy which was purchased in bulk. The display of it is meant to be eye-catching. A suggestion was made to keep a ledger of what has been sold. Finally, Tina mentioned that we can accept DDA certificates which are as good as money.
- c. America 250 celebration exhibits - Alan has been in touch with the SAR regarding their panels and is working with Paramount Printing. He also noted that Revolutionary soldier uniforms are now on display in our museum.

#### 11. **Event Reports** – Past

#### 12. **Event Reports** - Future

- a. April 15 – Oakland County History Coalition - Carol reported that this group will meet at or site on this date. Dave Decker will be presenting information on mills. All OCHS members are encouraged to attend.
- b. May 2 - Vintage Sale (M15) - Sandy is chairing this event. She is reaching out to antique, second hand stores, etc and also visiting some in order to get vendors.
- b. May 16 - Road to Independence Kickoff event - Alan reported that 20+ plus re-enactors, SAR members, etc. will be at this event and we will be feeding them. Dennis H look into the VFW doing hot dogs at the event. Ceremonies will be at 11 AM but event will hold from 10 to 2.
- c. Late May – 2nd Grade visit - Judy M. reached out to the teachers and they have not responded yet. Alan reviewed what we did last year with the students. Frank suggested we do more with children and he would like to help facilitate that. Alan suggested we might even consider hosting an overnight in the mill for Scouts.
- d. Aug 1& 2 - Art at the Mill -- Alan
- e. Aug 7 – Library 100th Anniversary event (at Library) - Alan

f. Sept 18 – Orion Historical Society onsite visit - Alan

### 13. **Unfinished Business**

a. Historical Information Requests -- Mari Ann

b. Election for Treasurer - Alan once again brought up the need for a treasurer. He is acting as treasurer pro tempore but we really need an official treasurer. Alan will do an article for the newsletter about that need.

### 14. **New Business**

a. Fire Department Walkthrough report - Alan, Sandy – Alan invited Chief Kwapis to visit the Old Mill and as a result he learned a lot. For example, the pipes we see in the ceiling are filled with just suppressed air. A real fire suppression system would cost about \$200,000. Chief Kwapis suggested we contact the Alarm Company and make sure our head sensors are still connected to our alarm system. Alan will contact them to get a review done. Alan reminded the group that if we see a fire we need to call 911. Chief Kwapis also told Alan that our biggest problem is probably the outdated electrical box. Alan added that the Chief was very easy to work with and very positive about the mill.

15. **Roundtable/Announcements** – Tom R said that he will be contacting the people who purchased blacksmith lessons and be creating a schedule. Bill Rathburg donated the receipt machine of Dr. Uloff for the museum. Dennis H reported that the wreathes at Seymour Lake Cemetery had been picked up today but he still needs volunteers for the upcoming date when they will be picked up at Ortonville Cemetery. Linda B reported that the Village is updating its website and we will be able to add OCHS information such as meeting notes.

16. **Adjourn** – motion to adjourn by Frank, second by Tom R – approved.

*Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, April 14 6:00pm at the Old Mill Museum.*