

Ortonville Community Historical Society
Minutes of General Membership Meeting April 14, 2026 6:00pm
Old Mill Museum Mann School - 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 – 6 PM
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** - All
3. **Recognition of Guests / New Members**
4. **Attendance / Sign-in** - Tiina A, Alan A, Frank S, Cheryl G., Linda B, Tom R, Dennis H, Kathy G, Mary K, Susan, Sandy M, Carol E, Mari Ann V, Kathy T
5. **Approval of Agenda** - motion by Kathy T to approve as presented and Dennis 2nd - approved
6. **Approval of Minutes**, March Gen. Membership Meeting – Kathy T motion to approve as presented – Susan 2nd - approved
7. **Treasurer’s Report** - Alan (temp) presented his report which had a list of expenses and receipts for the year. Expenses have been grouped into 3 categories: program services, fund-raising expenses (expenses in order to bring in more funds), management and administrative overhead – e.g. the humidifiers purchased were placed under expenses because they are important in the care of our artifacts – Kathy T motion to accept the report – Tina 2nd - approved
8. **Executive Officer Reports**
 - a. **President** - Alan – thanked the group for meeting in the school instead of the mill.
 - b. **Vice President** - Mari Ann has been working on the Road to Independence exhibit with some other OCHS members. She also asked please to remember to check our newsletter. In addition, she reminded the group that we can always use people at events and on Saturdays
 - c. **Secretary** - Carol – nothing to report
 - d. **Treasurer** - Alan (temp) – if you have not paid your dues please pay them
9. **Trustee Reports**
 - Kathy T – nothing to report
 - Ken - absent

Sandy reported that she talked to the people at the Ortonville Cemetery board meeting and they will give us the map of the cemetery to borrow for the May 16 event

10. Project Reports

a. **School refresh progress** - Alan reported that the two pump organs that did not work have been removed because the Board agreed to de-assess them and they were given to someone who owns a haunted house in Bay City. In addition, he reported that after the May 28 event we should be able to devote more time to the school re-refresh. He suggested that we need a plan for storing items like the quilts in the school. Dennis suggested storing things like this in vacuum sealed clear bags. He shared that some VFW museums store uniforms in this way. Alan suggested the Board will create a committee to work on this storage issue.

b. **Gift shop refresh progress** - Tina reported that the Board has approved that we can take things on consignment and that Tom R will be our first 'vendor' and we will be selling the honey he makes This will create a new revenue stream. Also she mentioned that it took a lot of time to set the gift shop up and so far we haven't had much exposure and things there now are an experiment so we can see what sells and what doesn't. Alan is working with Matt Jenkins of the DDA to get the DDA to print some Ortonville T-shirts that we can sell on consignment . Mary asked if perhaps these could have our logo on them instead of just the village. Frank asked if we could make a t-shirt with an old photo and the phrase Ortonville: My Home Town.

c. **America 250 celebration exhibits** - Alan reported that the posters have been set up but we will be getting additional items the first week of May such as flags, the metal poster of the 44 Revolutionary War soldiers buried in Oakland Countyt and a giant Declaration of Independence that will be signed at the May event.

d. **Outdoor Millpond sign** - Mary & Carol – Mary reported that when Mrs. Leece died she had given us a description of how the mill pond was used. This will be the basis of the sign we are planning. We have selected images for the sign and Carol will digitize them. Then, we will work on the text pieces. Tom R suggested that we use flags to show where the mill pond was.

e. **Refresh the Self-Guided Tour** -- Alan noted that the old one was a three pager and Tina showed an example of what a new version could look like. It is a trifold brochure.

f. **Flagpole** -- Sandy reported on how to save our flag pole but we have a problem with the tree near it. We will look into the history of the tree and see if it can be removed.

11. Event Reports – Past

12. Event Reports - Future

a. **April 15** – Oakland County Historical Coalition - Carol – reported that the History Coalition of Oakland County will hold its upcoming meeting at OCHS in the school

b. **May 2** - Vintage Sale (M15) - Sandy reported that we have had a lot of interest but no registration forms yet so Sandy will be calling people. Oxford Bank will be giving out popcorn. Mari Ann mentioned that we need volunteers that day, for example we need greeters. Carol and Susan agreed to be greeters. We also need help on Friday to bring stuff from the attic and some labor on Sunday to box things up, etc.

b. **May 16** - Road to Independence Kickoff event - Alan reported that we will be open from 10 AM to 2 PM but between 8 to 10 outside groups will be setting up tents such as the DAR, SAR, a vintage toy maker, etc. perhaps earlier. At 11 AM will be the ceremony which will be 30 minutes and will take place at the blacksmith pad. It will include a color guard, cannon, etc. We will be feeding the people putting on this event so volunteers needed. This includes people to set up chairs, greeters, and folks to fix with prep and serving of food. Lunch will be party subs. Also, we will be setting up the giant Declaration of Independence where people can sign it. We will need people to monitor that. Mary K, Alan, Mari Ann, Carol, Tom, Kathy T, and Sandy volunteered to help.

c. **May 28** – 2nd Grade visit - Judy M will be in charge and the plan is for 65 second graders to come on this date There will be 8 different stations and the students will rotate. It will take places on a Thursday from 9 to 11. We will get volunteers at our next meeting but Frank ad Dennis volunteered already.

d. **July 25-26** – Oakland County America250 (@ Oakland History Ctr)” in the events section. -

d. **Aug 1** - Art at the Mill - Alan reported that this has been cancelled.

e. **Aug 7** – Library 100th Anniversary event (at Library) - Alan reported that there will also be a speakeasy event in October in addition to a quilt raffle. The quilt is on display at the Library.

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

13. **Unfinished Business**

a. Historical Information Requests - Mari Ann – Mari Ann and Alan will meet to come up with a plan

b. Election for Treasurer - All - We still need a treasurer!

14. **New Business**

15. **Roundtable/Announcements**-- All - Tina shared information about an antique appraisal event coming up – Dennis reported that May 9 will be cleaning of Vet’s stones at the cemetery at 10 AM – Tom reported that last Saturday he had two

blacksmith classes and he has two for this Saturday – Susan will try to find some volunteer students to help with upcoming events -

16. Adjourn

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, May 12 @ 6:00pm in the Mann School on the campus of the Old Mill Museum.