

Ortonville Community Historical Society
Minutes for General Membership Meeting May 12, 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 at 6 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance - All
3. Recognition of Guests / New Members - Alan
4. Attendance / Sign-in - Carol E, Mary K, Kathy G, Tom R, Tina A, Alan A, Frank S, Linda B, Kathy T, Brent B, John F, Mari Ann V, Wren F, Ken B
5. Approval of Agenda -- motion by Kathy T and second by Frank - approved
6. Approval of Minutes, April Gen. Membership Meeting - motion by Mary K and second by Kathy T - approved
7. Treasurer’s Report -- Alan (temp) – motion by Kathy T to accept and file - second by Ken - approved

8. Executive Officer Reports

- a. President-- Alan met with Pete Burkett, interim Village Manager. He also will have a meeting tomorrow for the Rural Heritage Grant which is an infrastructure grant from the State Historic Preservation Office.
- b. Vice President - Mari Ann thanked everyone for the Vintage Sale on May 2 and said she is looking forward to May 16 event. She also thanked Tom for her husband’s blacksmith lesson.
- c. Secretary - Carol -nothing to report
- d. Treasurer - Alan (temp) – no additional info

9. Trustee Reports

- Kathy – nothing to report
- Ken – nothing to report
- Sandy – absent

10. Project Reports

- a. America250 celebration exhibits - Alan reported that it is all finished and in the mill now. Flags are also on display now. He also displayed the Declaration of Independence that he had printed which people will sign on May 16.
- b. Outdoor Millpond sign - Mary & Carol reported that a new photo has been located for the project which shows Mrs. Leece and her car which she mentions in her stories about the millpond. They also reported that the DDA will be paying for the sign.
- c. Flagpole -- Sandy was absent but Alan reported that the flagpole has been fixed by the Ortonville DPW.
- d. Historical Information Requests -- Mari Ann reported that she is working on a letter to respond to requests

11. Event Reports – Past

- a. April 15 – History Coalition of Oakland County – Carol reported that the meeting of the History Coalition in the old school and the tour of our museum was very successful. She thanked the members who helped with the event.
- b. May 2 - Vintage Sale (M15)-- Sandy/ Alan – We made about \$500 – Carol thanked Wren for the tour he gave her granddaughter.

12. Event Reports - Future

- a. May 16 - Road to Independence Kickoff event - Alan reported that this will be a major event – here is the schedule: Things to see including re-enactors including Paul Revere, Betsy Ross, Benjamin Rush, etc – also groups including SAR, DAR, CAR -There will also be our exhibits inside the mill. – The Declaration of Independence which Alan showed earlier in the meeting will be available for people to sign. There will be a craft for kids with Martha Washington and Betsy Ross. The TV will be set up with America Rock videos and music will be playing all day from the sound system. At 11 AM there will be the grand opening ceremony. Shuttle buses will be available at the library. Here is where help is needed: We are feeding the volunteers. We will need people to help with the D of I signing project – We need people to help with the information table – We need people inside the mill to help – Our biggest need is between 10 AM and 2 PM- lunch is at 12:15 PM
- b. May 28 – 2nd Grade visit -- Judy – Volunteers need to meet next week to figure out stations – we need 7 or 8 stations – 6 PM on May 19 -
- c. July 26-27 – Oakland County America 250 (@ Oakland History Ctr) Alan
- d. Aug 7 – Library 100th Anniversary event (@ Library) Alan
- e. Sept 18 – Orion Historical Society onsite visit Alan

13. Unfinished Business

- a. Election for Treasurer - All – The Board will address the issue at the next Board meeting.

14. New Business

- a. Spring Spruce Up Ortonville – DDA Grant - Alan reported that the DDA is offering \$100 for spring and summer themed décor – Wren volunteered to handle this.
- b. Community Input Survey preliminary results -- Alan had members take a look at the survey included with the agenda and minutes.
- c. Alarm system inspection results and lessons learned - Alan reported that Chief Kwapus talked the alarm company to inspect for free instead of the 600+ they had originally estimated. Then, Alan briefly described how the system works – Alan will ask Chief Kwapus if there is a way to protect the school regarding fire.
- d. Oakland County Access to Transit Grant - Engineering Visit - Alan reported that the engineering company came out and said that accessibility improvements can be done. They would fix the stairs but not really touch the building at all. – Also they recommended a connection between the mill and the little strip of land across the street that is village owned.

15. Roundtable/Announcements - Brent said he took the blacksmithing class and it was great. He also asked if there were any plans for the Fourth of July – Tom ran classes last Saturday and he had two classes with two students each. One student was a recent Brandon High grad and she is becoming a welder. – Linda reported that the person across the street has given permission to use her parking lot for our May 16 event – John said he will be able to volunteer on May 16 where needed.

16. Horseshoes, Buttons and Donald Duck Cola – postponed

17. Adjourn

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, June 9 @ 6:00pm in the Mann School on the campus of the Old Mill Museum.