

Ortonville Community Historical Society
Minutes for General Membership Meeting June 9, 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.”

NOTE: Due to traffic conditions, the Secretary, Carol E, was late to the meeting and was not able to capture minutes until 6 d.

1. **Call to Order** - Alan

2. **Pledge of Allegiance** - All

3. **Attendance:** Mari Ann V, Alan A, Sandy M, Linda B, Candee A, Judy M, Tina A, Mary K, Kathy G, Kathy T, Ken B. Carol E, Alexis P

4. **Recognition of Guests / New Members** - Alan

5. **Approval of Agenda** -

6. **Executive Officer Reports**

a. President - Alan - *Donation to Intergenerational BBQ*

b. Vice President - Mari Ann

c. Secretary - Carol

Approval of Minutes, May Gen Membership Meeting

d. Treasurer - Alan (tempore) gave the Treasurer's Report including *Process changes during this interim period*. Questions from the membership arose relating to a perceived lack of details of the Treasurer's Report. A decision was made to provide a more detailed report. Alan also reported on a *New Expense Report form* and recent Board recommendations: Two signatures will now be required on checks. At the end of the day two people will count case at the Gift Shop. Kathy T made a motion to accept and file the report – second by Judy M - approved

7. **Trustee Reports**

Kathy – Kathy T reported that she will be in charge of the Election Committee. She needs two people for the Nomination Committee. Mary K and Judy M volunteered for the committee. Kathy reported that the positions of President and Secretary are open. There are also 2 open Trustee positions. Finally, Kathy reported she is working on the bylaws review.

Ken – nothing to report

Sandy – reported on the Saturday “Junk Day” – She stated that in her opinion we did not take enough stuff out. She would like more to be taken out or at least take some stuff and put it in another place.

8. Project Reports

- a. Outdoor Millpond sign - Mary & Carol reported they are continuing to work on the sign.
- b. Oakland County Access to Transit Grant – Alan reported that the engineering report will hopefully be completed in July.
- c. School Refresh - Alan & Mari Ann have formed a committee to work on the 30th Anniversary of the School Move which will take place in September. Carol is joining the committee.
- d. Photo documentation with grad student – Alexis Pfarrar, Carol's summer intern, will be working with Mary K and Kathy G on the OCHS archives, in particular the photo collection.
- e. Document history of the mill building - Alan & Tina – Alan shared a document on the mill history he has put together.
- f. History Requests - Mari Ann shared a draft document of a standard response to a request for historical information which includes suggests, links to possible resources, etc.

9. Event Reports – Past

- a. May 16 - Road to American Independence Kickoff event – OCHS spent about \$600 on the event which everyone felt was well-attended and very successful – Sandy asked if perhaps we could do a similar event in the future.
- b. May 28 – 2nd Grade visit – it was reported that the students seemed to have a good time. In particular they loved the hats and visiting the old mill.

10. Event Reports - Future

- a. July 25-26 – Oakland County America 250 (@ Oakland History Ctr) – We still need volunteers to help with this event.
- b. Aug 7 – Library 100th Anniversary event (@ Library)
- c. Sept 12 – SeptemberFest
- c. Sept 18 – Orion Historical Society onsite visit

11. Unfinished Business

- a. Election for Treasurer – Mari Ann reported that her son Mason, who is an accountant, is willing to take on this responsibility. Alan will share OCHS procedures with him.

12. New Business

- a. Rural Heritage Grant and plans - The DDA will be turning in the application soon. It will focus on turning our current fire suppression system into a 'wet' system. A new plan has been developed which focuses on tanks in the basement. The DDA has committed \$38,000 in matching funds for this project.
- b. Austerity measures to reduce 2026-2027 heating expense - Alan reported that the Village is trying to reduce expenses and as a result Alan has put together a list of measures that OCHS will take to assist in that process. They include: We will not heat the school in the winter. The cleaning crew will not work in the winter. There will be no public programming in the winter except for Saturdays. Since we have two furnaces, we will lower the temperature of the furnace in the west side of the building because that section has no pipes that could freeze.

14. Roundtable/Announcements/History

- a. General – Alexis Pfarrar, Carol's summer intern, was introduced to the group. She will be working in the school on some Saturday's this summer as well as helping with archiving OCHS materials. Kathy T remarked that she is very thankful for what Alexis has done so far. Judy M stated that she has a concern about the loom which needs warping. We need to find an expert to help with that. Linda B, liaison for the Village, thanked OCHS for the austerity measures the group is undertaking. Carol invited OCHS members to join her History Coalition at Waterford Historical Village on June 17.

- 15. **Adjourn** - motion by Mary K to adjourn – second by Mari Ann – approved.

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, July 14 @ 6:00pm in the Mann School on the campus of the Old Mill Museum.