

Ortonville Community Historical Society
Minutes for General Membership Meeting July 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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Attendance: Carol E, Mari Ann V. Alan A. Sandy M, Mary K, Kathy G, Tina A, Linda B, Kathy T, Wren F

4. Recognition of Guests / New Members - Bob Gottschalk, Mason Vargo, Alexis and Michelle Pfarrer

5. Approval of Agenda - Kathy T motion to approve as presented – second by Sandy M – approved

5.5 Approval of Minutes – motion by Kathy T to approve as amended – second by Sandy M – approved -
Amendments included a spelling mistake in a last name and changing the word “decision” to “discussion” in reference to the acting treasurer’s report.

6. Executive Officer Reports

- a. President - Alan reported that he got a call from Ken Quisenberry who asked Alan to come to the Village meeting where Ken presented Alan and OCHS with his father’s police uniform. He was the one and only Ortonville policeman. This is a wonderful donation to OCHS. Alan also reported that the hot water heater was dead at the Old Mill for two reasons. One, the gas was turned off. Two, a pressure switch, was not working. Gas is back on and a pressure switch is coming. Alan also told members that the large ice cream freezer is no longer in the Gift Shop. It went to the DDA who can use it for events. Note that the DDA gave us a microwave recently since ours was quite old.
- b. Vice President - Mari Ann reported that we have had a lot of great projects going on. She also related that Alexis P, Carol’s summer intern, is doing so much. In addition she also talked about the committee’s work on the Mann School project.
- c. Secretary - Carol – reiterated her thanks to Alexis for all her great work.
- d. Treasurer - Alan (tempore) reported that we have two new members which brings our current number to 98 members.

7. Trustee Reports -

Kathy T reported that the Nominating Committee has been talking together. In addition, she is beginning work on the review of the bylaws.

Ken - absent

Sandy once again thanked Alexis for her work.

8. Project Reports

- a. Outdoor Millpond sign - Mary & Carol – still in process

- b. Oakland County Access to Transit Grant - Alan has not seen the Engineering report yet.
- c. School Refresh - Alan, Mari Ann, Carol – pages 11 and 12 in the meeting packet – Focus is on making the school a ‘museum quality display’ - Alan went over the diagram showing the new plan for the school. For example, the committee is suggesting we eliminate a number of the desks which will create more space. The vision is that the left side will be set up like a one-room school from the past. On the right will be all the interpretive materials and tribute elements. Tribute area: Mari Ann reached out to the Seelbinder family to see if we can get a portrait of the Arnold and Mary Alice Seelbinder - Alan also mentioned the pull-up banners that are planned. Also, we have three-ringed binders that tell the history of the moving of the school and would like to digitize the photos in them and show them on a monitor instead. Alan has located someone to help get the bell working. Marty Vargo with be installing a handrail. A budget will be presented to the Board at the next Board meeting.
- d. Photo documentation - Alexis reported that she has been working on the binders in the office and also additional photos. Each binder has a category (there are 12) and a number. She has used colors and numbers to organize the binders. She has also created an Index to the Archives. The membership was very complimentary of the work of Alexis.
- e. Document history of the Mill building. Alan & Tina are continuing to work on this project and they are up to 44 pages.
- f. America in Bloom - Sandy reported that this is a Federal program coming through the DDA and the Village. She attended a meeting but deferred to others with deeper connections to Ortonville since she lives in Groveland Township. Interest seemed to be in trees and bushes mainly.

9. Event Reports – Past

10. Event Reports - Future

- a. July 25-26 – Oakland County America 250 (@ Oakland History Ctr) -
- b. Aug 7 – Library 100th Anniversary event (@ Library) – from 6 to 8 PM -
- c. Aug 22 – Booth at Ortonville Farmer’s Market
- d. Sept 12 – SeptemberFest --

11. Unfinished Business

- a. Election for Treasurer - Following an introduction of Mason Vargo a motion was made by Mary K and seconded by Sandy M to elect Mason Vargo as OCHS Treasurer. Motion passed unanimously.

12. New Business

- a. Nominating Committee - Kathy reported that the positions open are president, secretary and 3 trustee positions. She will run again for one trustee position. Ken is not running. Alan and Carol are still willing to serve in their positions. Bob G is interested in a trustee position and – Tom R might be. Alan will see that a message gets in the upcoming newsletter regarding the open positions.

- 13. Roundtable/Announcements/History:** Carol will be giving a lecture at the Buhl Mansion on July 16 on the History of the Oakland County Park System. Bob G is having a good time working at the Blacksmith Shop. Linda B thanked the group for allowing her to serve as liaison for the village and asked if the OCHS minutes should be included in the Village Council Packet. This will be considered by the Board. Tina brought up the topic of the

loom again and asked if there is any update. So far nothing definite but several people are trying to find someone.

14. **Adjourn** - Motion by Mari Ann – second by Kathy t - approved

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, August 11 @ 6:00pm in the Mann School on the campus of the Old Mill Museum.