

Ortonville Community Historical Society
Minutes for General Membership Meeting Aug 11, 2026 6:00pm
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 called the meeting to order at 6 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance - All
3. Attendance – Carol E, Mary K, Sandy M, Mari Ann V., Kathy G, Bob G, Tom R., Kathy T, Linda B, Tina A, Alan A, Mason V
4. Recognition of Guests / New Members - Alan -
5. Approval of Agenda- motion by Mari Ann – Sandy second - approved
6. Executive Officer Reports

a. President - Alan reported that Ortonville is getting free-wifi and he was invited to a meeting regarding this project. He reported that there are 4 locations and one of those will be in our building. It will be free, public wifi. It is expected to be up and running by Septemberfest. It was the result of a grant from AARP received by the DDA. There is another plan to have speakers in the Village. He also reported that people should be careful about the wasps on our site. Also, the *Echoes in the Iron* musical group filmed a video in front of the blacksmith shop. He also reported that the Board had made some decisions such as de-assessing some extra copies of an Oakland County history books, donating our color printer to the Library. Note that the library recently gave us an expensive scanner. Finally, he reported that Christmas in the Village meetings have already started. Both the BGYA and Lions groups will be doing activities on our site.

b. Vice President - Mari Ann reported that there is a woman who will be helping with our loom. Some of our members have met with her already. She will also be helping to do any maintenance that is needed on the loom. Grace has been involved in the process. In addition, Mary, Kathy, Sandy and Mari Ann have been working on displays, in particular the Scout display.

c. Secretary - Carol – presented the minutes from the last meeting – Kathy T motion to approve – second by Sandy - approved

d. Treasurer - Mason reported that he and Alan have been working together regarding our financial records. For example, there is a process for our gift shop receipts now.

7. Trustee Reports - Kathy – She has been able to work on the review of the by-laws and has sent some suggestions to Alan and Mari Ann. These will go to the Board meeting in September and before the General Membership in October

Ken - absent

Sandy – nothing to report

8. Project Reports

a. Sidewalk Construction Grants and Construction- Alan reported that Ortonville received the grant for the sidewalk in front of the Old Mill. The engineering report has been completed. The project is expected to be done within the next 5 or 6 months.

b. School Refresh - Alan, Mari Ann, Carol – Alan reported that some of the changes are visible right now such as the fact that there are fewer desks. He also pointed out the new video display which will replace the three ring binders that are displayed in the school. Also, there is now a handrail for the school steps. The goal is to get things together by December since the school was moved 30 years ago during that month. -

c. Photo documentation - Librarian -- Alexis – Carol reported that Alexis lost her grandmother this week and that is why she is absent. It was decided to have an archivist/librarian to handle all our print resources (photos, etc)

d. America in Bloom - Sandy – nothing new to report – Linda Brooks reported that the report will be available likely in September.

e. Sunsail Shade at Blacksmith Shop - Alan, Bob – The Board reviewed and approved the purchase of a sunsail for the blacksmith shop which will provide much needed shade.

9. Event Reports – Past

a. July 25-26 – Oakland County America250 (@ Oakland History Ctr) – Alan thanked all who were there to help.

b. Aug 7 – Library 100th Anniversary event (@ Library) – Our group set up a tent and some children's activities. Bob will be fixing the stilts which had good use during the event.

10. Event Reports - Future

a. Aug 22 – Booth at Ortonville Farmer's Market – We will have a table. The event is 9 AM to 1 PM. We will need volunteers.

b. Sept 12 – SeptemberFest - We may need several volunteers.

Pie Baking Contest – We need to make a decision regarding this contest. Mary expressed a concern that we may not have the needed equipment for this. It was decided not to do this activity this year.

Butter Churning – We will still be doing this.

c. Sept 18 (afternoon)– Orion Historical Society Bus Trip to our campus. – We will need volunteers for this.

d. Sept 20 – Oak Hill Cemetery Walk – Remote Blacksmith Demo – invitation to people to come

e. Oct 10 – Witches Night Out – Mari Ann and Mary K will be coordinating this for us.

11. Unfinished Business

a. Nominating Committee / Elections - Kathy – Wren and Bob G are running for trustee positions.

12. New Business

a. Coordination of Fall and Christmas seasonal styling on campus – Recently our theme has been America250. Alan suggested that now it is time to think about new themes for fall and Christmas. He offered the idea that we try to have a coordinated plan for these different themes. Mari Ann offered to coordinate these efforts.

13. Roundtable/Announcements/History

a. General - All – Wren reported that the grains like buckwheat, etc are growing. Tina offered that she has been working in the upstairs and she found an unlabeled photo. People were able to identify it. Mason said he will be moving back to Ortonville. Carol reported about her mastodon program at the White Lake Library is coming up.

14. Adjourn - motion by Kathy T and second by Mary K - approved

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, September 8 @ 6:00pm in the Mann School on the campus of the Old Mill Museum.