

Ortonville Community Historical Society
Minutes for General Membership Meeting September 8, 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 6:01 PM
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Attendance:** Carol E., Mari Ann V. Alan A, Kathy T, Kathy G, Mary K, Bob G, Tom R, Tina A, Mason V
4. **Recognition of Guests / New Members:** Alan
5. **Approval of Agenda** - motion to approve by Kathy T – second by Mari Ann - approved
6. **Executive Officer Reports**
 - a. *President* - Alan gave an update on the village WIFI program and reported that it won't be up by Septemberfest but soon after it will be ready. He also gave a Kearsley CreekPark update and reported that he has been part of the planning on what the park should be like. He suggested that it have a sign like the mill pond sign we are working on. Also, he reported that he contributed some items for the Septemberfest article in *The Citizen*.
 - b. *Vice President* - Mari Ann reported that there isn't too much new but several ongoing projects are important including that we now have a portrait of the Seelbinders for the Mann School. In addition, the loom project is also ongoing.
 - c. *Secretary* – Carol –presented the Minutes from the last General Membership Meeting – Kathy T motion to approve – second by Mary K - approved
 - d. *Treasurer* - Mason reported that we have had increased sales primarily from T-shirts sales. He also reported that regular payouts have occurred. Finally, he looked into whether or not we should consider an ACH process so we can take credit cards. However, he feels that for our purposes it may not be a good option considering our low number of sales.
7. **Trustee Reports**

- *Kathy T* – reported that she has been working with the nomination committee and the ballot will be ready for the next meeting. She has also been working on the bylaws and will have something together for the next Board meeting.
- *Ken* - absent
- *Sandy* - absent

8. Project Reports

- Fall and Christmas Seasonal Stylings* - Mary Ann reported that we will be starting pretty quick and initially will concentrate on fall. There will be a meeting this Thursday at 1 PM to review what we currently have, especially the items in the attic. She reported that she would like to continue the America250 connection in our seasonal stylings.
- Sidewalk Construction Grants and Construction* – Alan gave an update that it is likely the project will be completed between Septemberfest and Witches Night Out.
- School Refresh* - Alan, Mari Ann, Carol – Banners are in progress. Shelby from The Citizen has offer to help with the design. Mari Ann reported on the progress of the tribute area. Finally, the committee hopes to have an event in December.
- Sunsail Shade at Blacksmith Shop* - Alan, Bob – Bob G reported that he has been working on the plan on how to install it.

9. Event Reports – Past

- Aug 22 – Booth at Ortonville Farmer's Market* - cancelled because of rain

10. Event Reports - Future

- Sept 12 – SeptemberFest* -
 - Heritage Craft Demonstrations – see pg 12 of packet – butter churning, leather work, corn grinding, blacksmiths, etc.
 - Volunteers – The Gift Shop will be open and Tina A will be in charge.
 - Apple Pie Baking – The event will still occur but we are not hosting it this year,
- Sept 18 (afternoon)– Orion Historical Society Bus Trip to our campus*
 - Volunteers - 30+ people are signed up – Tom will Blacksmith and Carol will be helping.
- Sept 20 – Oak Hill Cemetery Walk* – Remote Blacksmith Demo

- d. *Oct 1 – Cub Scout Time Capsule Ceremony* – Old Town Hall - Alan reported that a troop will be placing a time capsule in the attic of the Old Town Hall – 6 PM
- e. *Oct 10 – Witches Night Out* - Mari Ann and Mary will be coordinating. All OCHS members are invited to help
- f. *Dec 4/5 - Christmas in the Village* - Alan has been attending meetings.

11. Unfinished Business

- a. Nominating Committee / Elections - Kathy T -
- b. Photo librarian - Update – Mari Ann will be handling this right now.

12. New Business

13. Roundtable/Announcements/History

- a. General - Bob congratulated Alan and Tina for their selection as Citizens of the Year. Tom will be bringing in some more honey for the Gift Shop.

- 14. **Adjourn** - motion by Mari Ann – second by Kathy T - approved

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, October 13 @ 6:00pm in the Mann School on the campus of the Old Mill Museum.