

OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY
ANNUAL MEETING REPORT
OCTOBER 10, 2016

In accordance with the bylaws, the chairperson is to present a written report annually to the Board of Trustees (and make it available to the general membership) reviewing the activities, decisions and such other information deemed of importance to the operations of the Society.

Mr. Earl Reeder of Reeder Associates, Inc. of Dayton, Ohio was a guest at the February 1, 2016 meeting. The Reeder Associates Inc. firm has been in business for approximately 30 years and includes among its most recent projects the Cox Arboretum historical restoration and extensive restoration to the Dayton Masonic Temple. Mr. Reeder had reviewed our Records Book which documents everything we have accomplished to this date, from the listing of the Olive Branch School to the National Register of Historical Places by the National Park Service, United States Department of Interior, to the most recent (Fall 2015) completion of the structural repairs and new roof installation at the O. B. "Little Round Building." Mr. Reeder emphasized that we needed a clear statement on future use of the building, how it would serve the community, and how it would generate funds to pay for maintenance and other costs. He also noted that intended use would be affected by building codes. He concluded his remarks by suggesting the following plan: 1. Physical assessment of the mechanical, plumbing, and electrical needs would be necessary, and cost estimates for same; 2. Prepare a budget; 3. Generate drawings for renovation; 4. Fund raise, benevolent if possible; 5. Make good choices so that the project would be well done as will benefit our benevolent donors (such as qualifying them for tax credits).

Mr. Peter Scarff reported at the April meeting that the Tecumseh Local Schools Board of Education was working with their attorney to prepare a statement with right verbiage for a legal mutual understanding between the TLS Board and the Olive Branch School Preservation Society. Mr. Scarff stated that the attorney would have the letter ready for their April 26, 2016 TLS Board meeting.

Your chairman subsequently made contact with Mr. Bill Burrow of Advance Mechanical located in Fairborn, Ohio requesting their company's interest in doing a physical assessment of mechanical and plumbing needs in the O. B. building. Mr. Burrows responded in the affirmative. They would be pleased to do such an analysis at our convenience. Cost estimates and date for same to be determined at a later time. A similar contact with Triec Electrical Services, Inc. was also made. They, too, would be interested in discussing the matter when we determine we are ready to move forward.

The Tecumseh Local Board of Education presented a "Letter of Intent regarding the use of the Olive Branch Building" at the July 11, 2016 OBSPS trustee meeting, along with a copy of the Board of Education's Resolution 46-16 entitled, "Resolution of Intent regarding the Olive Branch Building." Discussion followed, and a series of questions by members of the trustees were presented as to the interpretation, or meaning of such terms as "lease," "Preservation Society assessment fees" and "storage by school board." The trustees requested clarification by the Board of Education. I met with Peter Scarff, Board of Education designate to the OBSPS Board of Trustees on August 22, 2016, presenting him with a written list of questions for perusal by the TLS Board, and subsequent response for clarification. Mr. Scarff's response on behalf of the TLS Board of Education was discussed on Oct. 10.

The Open House that the OBSPS Board set for Saturday, October 1, 2016 had to be canceled due to the TLS Board of Education's preparation for an auction to be held in the building sometime in October.

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In conclusion, my term as trustee for the OBSPS Board of Trustees ends as of October 31, 2016. At the request of then TLS Board of Education member Mrs. Jane Manemann, I began serving on a steering committee in June of 2007, and was subsequently selected to serve as interim chair for that committee with the intent and purpose of leading an effort toward the renovation and preservation of the Olive Branch Rotunda Building, and the application to the Ohio Historical Preservation Office seeking approval for nomination and listing of the O. B. building to the National Register of Historic Places. In May of 2009, I was elected chairperson of the newly organized Olive Branch School Preservation Society Board of Trustees and have served in that capacity to the present time. I have decided, after thoughtful consideration, not to accept another three-year appointment to the Board. It is my belief that the time comes when a change in leadership is beneficial and imperative to any organization. New styles of leadership can provide a new burst of enthusiasm and motivation on the part of Board members, and the infusion of new ideas, skills and improvisation in the thinking and direction of a board.

I wish to thank all the members of the Board of Trustees and the TLS Board of Education for their service, dedication and perseverance in the cause of saving and working toward our ultimate goal of completing the renovation of Olive Branch into an Archival and Community Center for the citizens of Bethel Township.

Respectfully,

William Berry, Chairperson
OBSPS Board of Trustees