

## **OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

### **Minutes of the meeting of April 8, 2013**

Trustees present: William Berry, Cyndie Gerken, Paula Crew, Jane Manemann, Susan Morgan, John Sipe, Howard Stahl, and Ken Strickland

Others in attendance: Debbie Brandt and Joan Brandt

Mr. Berry called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

The minutes of the January 14, 2013 meeting were approved.

Finance Committee Report: Chairman Howard Stahl has held several meetings of the committee, and finalized levels of memberships. He noted that the next step is a mass mailing of the brochures. The committee is also in the process of contacting people who can identify potential major donors. It was stated that the mood of the community is that the Board of Education may use this building, and should finance the entire renovation. Bill Berry pointed out that people are looking for any excuse to vote against levies. Jane Manemann responded that 15 years or so ago, the Board would have funded it. She also warned against stating that tax dollars would not be used in the project since some have already been expended, and some will continue to be. Jane also assured the Society that this negative attitude is not widespread in the community. Jane also asked Paula Crew if there were options for the use of grant funds, since the renovated building will also be used for educational purposes. Cyndie Gerken noted that we have applied for Ohio Historical Society grants without success. Bill Berry mentioned a letter from Preservation Ohio, which he would read under new business.

In response to Debbie Brandt, John Sipe noted that presentations at class reunions have been unsuccessful in generating contributions. In response to Debbie, Bill Berry noted that only a small response was received from mailings. Also in response to Debbie, Bill and Cyndie assured her that acknowledgements were sent to donors. In response to Howard Stahl, Bill Berry stated that renewal letters had not been sent, but should be.

In response to Jane Manemann, Debbie Brandt replied she was uncertain whether 500 addresses could be put on a disc or 1,000 were necessary before contacting. John Sipe pointed out that Debbie could get alumni representatives to assist in this project. Susan Morgan asked for instructions on how to use the lists, and it was concluded that the email addresses would have to be manually entered into a group electronic mailing. Debbie noted that the lists go back to 1944, in answer to Jane Manneman. Jane was concerned with the number in that age group that may or may not use e-mail. Deb pointed out the postage savings of using email versus snail mail. Cyndie Gerken noted that names and addresses of members of the class of 1947 had been obtained from Maxine Leathley.

John Sipe suggested another postage saving method would be to place donation information in *The Connecting Link*, although this may tie us too closely to the TLS Board of Education activities. Paula Crew volunteered to check if solicitations can be placed in *The Connecting Link*. Howard Stahl suggested reimbursing the Board for expenses of mass mailings. Bill

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Berry suggested a disclaimer that the mailings and solicitations were paid for by OBSPS. Cyndie Gerken suggested placing the Finance Committee's plan in *The Connecting Link*. Paula will check to see if this is possible.

Under Old Business, Mr. Berry said that because of a paperwork issue, the Society must re-file information to renew its 501(c)3 status. He thanked Cyndie Gerken for collecting and organizing information for all the Society's financial transactions.

Under New Business, Mr. Berry passed around the letter from Preservation Ohio [www.preservationohio.com](http://www.preservationohio.com). Cyndie Gerken serves on that Board, and stated that the letter has nothing to do with grant funding. A letter was also received from Attorney General Mike DeWine stating that charitable organizations must now register with his office. Another year-end audit was being done for the Society, similar to the one completed for 2011.

Mr. Berry reminded the Society of the wonderful tribute to Mr. Sipe which will be held on June 29, 2013. The concert will involve all students who studied under Mr. Sipe.

Mr. Berry formally welcomed TLS Assistant Superintendent Paula Crew to the Society. She will check on grants and *The Connecting Link*.

In response to a question from Jane Manemann, Ken Strickland noted that WBGU has chronicled historical schools in Ohio in the past and might be interested in doing a story on Olive Branch. Cyndie Gerken commented that Think TV had done an educational video about The National Road. Bill Berry mentioned that we might run OBSPS information on the Springfield Community Channel - Channel 5.

Debbie Brandt noted that the weather map showed the weather in Forgy, recently. Discussion followed on the nearby location of Forgy Railroad Station, and the Forgy family who owned the property.

Cyndie Gerken reported that a Pennsylvania man doing a fundraiser for ovarian cancer was walking along the National Road, and would be walking past Olive Branch School later in the week. She will take pictures and submit them to the local newspapers.

Howard Stahl made a motion for adjournment. Mr. Berry adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.