

Olive Branch School Preservation Society

Minutes of the Annual Meeting on October 13, 2021

The OBSPS Annual meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chairman **Jim Leathley**. Trustees present were **Jim Leathley, Cyndie Gerken, Susan Morgan, Sharon Leathley, Howard Stahl**, and ex officio TLS superintendent **Paula Crew** and TLS Director of Facilities and Safety **Brian Dixon**. Also present was OBSPS member Wes Baker, and several guests including Connie Sample, Herman Schiller, Roberta Schneider, Jim Rees, Reed Romine, and John Detrick. Several of our guests were from the Medway Area Historical Society and we thanked them for their recent donation to OBSPS.

Since the prior minutes were from a full year ago (10/14/2020) and progress has been made on topics discussed therein, Chairman Jim Leathley asked for a motion to suspend the reading of the minutes. A motion was made by Cyndie Gerken and seconded by Sharon Leathley. Motion carried.

A printed Treasurer's Report was distributed by Treasurer Sharon Leathley and she verbally highlighted the donations received and that our current balance is \$17,043.83. A motion to approve the report was made by Howard Stahl and seconded by Cyndie Gerken. Motion carried. Sharon Leathley also reminded us that our annual OBSPS dues of \$10 needed to be paid by the end of the year.

Under Committee Reports, Chairman Jim Leathley distributed the Annual Report and read it out loud since it contained several notable areas of progress on the preservation of the Olive Branch School, despite our lack of in person meetings due to the pandemic. Official decisions had taken place by electronic communication with the Board. Included in the report were grant applications and awards, estimates sought for future projects and progress with restoration with the Blind Eye Restoration. Progress will continue with Blind Eye Restoration coming in December to remove and begin restoration of the main entrance doors and surrounding windows.

Under Old Business, Chairman Jim Leathley led a discussion of the renovation progress on the building that included the upcoming start of renovation of the front doors and windows as discussed earlier and ideas on how to restore/repair the front "porch" and steps. Jim has sought estimates from several companies on this, including Garage Kings that could offer an alternative finish to the concrete. Cyndie Gerken remarked that she did not like the idea of the "porch" floor being color or design that appeared more modern. Jim Leathley reported that the finishes can look just like concrete. Concrete estimates have been difficult to get perhaps related to the pandemic. Also mentioned was that the required upkeep of the finish down the road would be something to consider in our decision. Grants were also discussed and ideas for new grants included a county or township grant (election year is a good time to request this), or a Rotary Club grant. Reed Romine asked about guidelines we need to follow in the restoration in order to get grants and Cyndie reported that unless Federal funds are involved there are usually not tight guidelines to follow and we can restore to original as close as we can without having to use specific materials. Cyndie Gerken also reported that she would like to apply again to the Ohio National Road Association for a grant but that they require three estimates on any project. Jim Leathley reported that he will try to get estimates on dry wall and electric for the southeast classroom. In addition, Cyndie Gerken stated that Scott Green of Digital Graphics is working on our new website (more user-friendly with handheld devices) which will be paid for with the Pomeroy Grant funds.

Under New Business, Chairman Jim Leathley asked for a motion to reappoint Board members Howard Stahl and Virgil Studebaker (terms ending 10/31/2021) for a three year term ending 10/31/2024. Motion to reappoint was made by Cyndie Gerken and seconded by Susan Morgan. Motion carried. Jim Leathley reported that Ken

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Strickland (Board member whose term also ends 10/31/2021), has sold his house in Ohio and moved to California and he feels he should no longer be on the Board since he is so far away. Jim mentioned that he will put together a list of interested persons to replace Ken and send via email to the Board for a vote. Next we reelected our current slate of officers for an additional one year term. A motion to reelect was made by Cyndie Gerken and seconded by Sharon Leathley. Motion carried.

Under Misc. Business, Jim Leathley related the health problems our Board member Scott Suther has been going through. He is currently recovering from major surgery at Van Crest and Jim distributed that address for anyone who wishes to send him a card. The facility is also open to visitors. Cyndie Gerken also mentioned that a membership mailing drive is due and Sharon Leathley stated she is working on a letter to go out to all who have ever donated. When the letter is ready she will contact Cyndie Gerken and Susan Morgan to stuff envelopes for mailing. The next open house was discussed and the group agreed a good time for that would be spring or fall when the front area renovation will hopefully be done. Sharon Leathley reminded everyone that the meeting dates for 2022 were listed at the bottom of the agenda. With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Susan Morgan and seconded by Cyndie Gerken. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Jim Leathley at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary Susan Morgan