

OLIVE BRANCH SCHOOL PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual Meeting on October 12, 2022

The OBSPS Annual Meeting was called to order at 7:04PM by Chairman Jim Leathley. Trustees present were **Jim Leathley, Howard Stahl, Cyndie Gerken, Sharon Leathley, Don Wallace, Scott Suther, Sara Suver, Virgil Studebaker**, and ex officios TLS Superintendent **Paula Crew**, and TLS Director of Facilities and Safety **Brian Dixon**. Several guests were also in attendance including Reed Romine, Roberta Schneider, Connie Sample, and Jimmy Rees. Trustees not in attendance were Susan Morgan and Alec Ashbaugh.

The reading of the July 13, 2022 meeting minutes was suspended due to the absence of Secretary Susan Morgan. All Trustees had received copies of the minutes by email or mail. No corrections were made. Also, in light of the Secretary's absence, Sharon Leathley offered to take the minutes of today's meeting.

A printed Treasurer's Report was distributed by Sharon Leathley and she stated that the current balance is \$18,306.85, plus the \$5,000.00 held in the Springfield Foundation Horizon Fund. A motion to approve the financial report was made by Scott Suther and seconded by Don Wallace. Motion carried.

Under Committee Reports, Chairman Jim skimmed over the highlights of his 2022 Annual Report to the committee. Copies of the report were handed out at this meeting. Cyndie mentioned the only thing missing from the Annual Report was the presentation that she and Scott made to the New Carlisle Rotary on March 15, 2022. Cyndie did make contact with Cindy Gracy, who was the President of New Carlisle Rotary at the time of the presentation. She explained that New Carlisle Rotary wasn't interested in donating any money to our cause until we get farther along in our project. Jim also thanked Brian and Paula, noting that the Olive Branch building is now empty of warehouse storage items. It looks great!

Cyndie applied for grants from the Della Selsor Trust (for web site maintenance, etc.), The Turner Foundation and Springfield Foundation. She used the estimate from Blind Eye Restoration for the SW classroom windows and doors. The total estimate is \$14,650.00. Cyndie explained the request was 80% of the cost for grant purposes, which equals \$11,720.00. Since we only received one estimate, she applied for the same amount to both Turner and Springfield. Virgil asked what if we get both? Jim and Cyndie both assured us that, given our reputation with these two organizations, we should be able to sit down and have a conversation with them should this happen. Cyndie said the average grant funding for this type does not usually exceed \$6,000/7,000, so this should not become an issue.

In discussions, Reed Romine asked what we were planning to do with the building - Community center, museum/historical building, or ? He felt the public needed to know what our plans are and maybe they would show more interest. He suggested we contact all alumni who are still alive, to see if there is interest from them. Cyndie explained that, as she is completing grant requests, she outlines that the future plan for OB is (among other things) to use it as a community center. OB happens to be in the "exact" center of Bethel Township. Jim gave us his thoughts that not many beyond early 1970s graduates would have an interest in this building. Howard stated he was at the building in 1966-1967 and, other than for art classes, the building was no longer used until it became the TLS warehouse.

Jim shared that no decision regarding the concrete posts and steps at the main entrance has been made. Alec Ashbaugh was to meet with an architect regarding repairing the concrete, however he (Alec) had not responded.

Howard Stahl commented that one of the next things we need to consider is obtaining electrical and plumbing estimates. These will not only be major financial requirements, but will be needed to make

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further renovations in the building. He suggested contacting DP&L and/or Ohio Edison, as both were very helpful in past projects, and covered the cost of getting utilities to the buildings.

Don Wallace shared that if it's a true community center, we need to get folks from Medway, New Carlisle and Donnelsville involved in our project. He suggested contacting families of prominent students that graduated from OB to update them on what we have accomplished, including OB being added to the National Register, etc. He also mentioned getting in contact with the "foundation family" members of the area. Examples: Lamme, Steele, Wallace, Brosey. Don thought we should get in touch with the Clark County Convention Facilities Authority for some potential financial support from them.

Through this conversation, Don mentioned maybe we should try to invite New Carlisle Historical Society to join us in our endeavors like Medway group has. Cyndie thought that was a good idea, and suggested that we invite New Carlisle Historical (or a representative) to our January meeting. Jim will contact Dave McWhorter to see if there is any interest. This would be a further attempt to continue with the idea of a (Bethel Township) Community Center, and to get all areas involved. Scott mentioned Medway Historical Society made a donation last year and they have approximately 60 members in their group. They also have presentations and (occasionally) invite outside speakers and guests in for those events.

Jim expressed that he thought the renovation of the SW classroom may not have to be as extensive as the SE classroom. We possibly would not want to remove the "lowered" ceiling, and - there is already extensive electric in that classroom (as it was used as a maintenance shop).

Scott mentioned he has some pictures of the classrooms and students in Olive Branch from the early-to-mid 1920's that (at some time down the road) he would like to frame and hang in our building.

Jim and Brian Dixon stated they both have run lead paint tests on the inside and outside of the building. ALL tests determined there is NO evidence of lead. We can proceed with getting an estimate to power wash the building (to remove the deteriorating exterior paint). Jim had previously talked with the owner of Aqua Force - a local company that does onsite power washing. Having the lead paint tests completed, Jim will contact Aqua Force again for an estimate.

The terms of Cyndie Gerken, Susan Morgan and Don Wallace will expire on 10/31/22. A motion to reappoint them to new 3-year terms was made by Virgil Studebaker and seconded by Sara Suver. Motion carried. A motion to re-elect the current officers (Jim Leathley, Cyndie Gerken, Sharon Leathley and Susan Morgan) was made by Virgil Studebaker and seconded by Scott Suther. Motion carried.

Jim inquired about changing the meeting time to earlier than 7PM. We are all "older" and more flexible with our schedules. The question was raised - do we really NEED to meet at 7PM? The question was directed to Paula and Brian - would an earlier time work for them and they said it would not be a problem. After some discussion, all were in agreement to change the quarterly meeting time from 7:00PM to 4:00PM. Given this, our next meeting will be on January 11, 2023 at 4:00PM.

Having no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Cyndie Gerken, and seconded by Howard Stahl. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,

By Sharon Leathley (for Secretary Susan Morgan)