

## OMPHS MINUTES September 12, 2023

Co-President Tom Dalluge called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present were Brent & Phyllis Cooley, Marie Cornell, Connie Sargent, Chris & Karen Rieser, Jane Boursaw, David and Carolyn Taylor, Dave & Donna Tuttle, Mary Morgan, JoAnn Cole, Ann Swaney, Barb Wunsch, Laura Johnson, Judy Weaver and Tom Dalluge.

A report from Dean Francis, not present, indicates that we have a balance of \$21,000. The township paid us receipts from the collection boxes at the Hessler cabin and Replica Church of \$300.00. (The Township keeps  $\frac{3}{4}$  of that revenue for building upkeep.)

Tom Dalluge outlined the results of this summer's visioning meetings with the Board and Committee Chairs.

Goals:

1. Grow our membership.
2. Cooperate with other area historical societies. (Note: each of the Riesers will be presenting at the Traverse Area Historical Society during this coming year.)
3. Advocate for historical education and scholarship.
4. Suggesting that a goal of saving something historical might unite us. The proposed project is saving the historical chestnut trees of the Old Mission Peninsula. There are only 5000 American chestnut trees worldwide after a blight which began in 1904. FIFTY of those are on OMP. Our Memorial Tree program has already planted 700 trees. We should add chestnut trees to that group. He has been consulting with the American Chestnut Society. Judy suggested he also contact the Archangel Tree Project in Mesick, which clones old trees.

Our October 5 program will be on "Saving the American Chestnut Tree."

Vice-President David Taylor discussed our desire to cooperate with local schools on an essay contest, or the Chestnut Tree project, or Arbor Day, He proposed classrooms could foster a tree in March.

Members commented on other old chestnuts in the area at Ladd Road at Smokey Hollow.

We need a venue for our October 5 program, as the Community Library is booked. Tom will research that.

Phyllis Cooley is researching an alternate site to the Legion Hall for our December meeting.

David Taylor announced that an appeal letter for funding will be sent out this coming December.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Weaver, Secretary

