

Boston Mill Society Meeting Minutes Draft
November 17, 2015
Shedd Fire Station

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM.

Members present were Spencer Lewis, President; Tom Adams, Vice-President/interim Treasurer; Anita Lewis, Secretary; Don Ware, Jim Ballard, Ron VanOrden, and Larry Thomson, BMS Board members at large. Absent was Carl Browning, due to a scheduling conflict. Also present were Bob McCormick, BMS member; Tom Parsons, Thompson's Mills Park Ranger; and Patrick Newhall, Thompson's Mills Asst. Ranger (both are also BMS members).

The revised draft of the October 20, 2015, BMS Board meeting minute were moved and seconded to be approved as published. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Treasurer made his report accompanied by handouts of a balance sheet current as of Oct 31, 2015. He reported that he was able to satisfy Key Bank that he was the current Treasurer of the BMS and was able to obtain copies of the July and September, 2014 bank statements and that the bookkeeper was in process of going through that information. Total funds on the balance sheet remain unchanged from September although itemized items have been changed to reflect the money set aside in reserve at the previous meeting for the fire suppression study and the grant money for busing Linn County school children to the Mill. The BMS has roughly \$9,000.00 in unreserved funds.

From the progress they have made so far, the audit committee is expecting to find some minor amounts that they will not be able to account for from the past until now. The overall total of non-reconciled expenditures is expected to be under \$100.00.

The President brought up the subject of the bookkeeper requesting that the BMS invest in Quickbooks as its use would streamline bookkeeping. Ron VanOrden had proposed getting Quickbooks through TechSoup as a nonprofit can obtain Quickbooks at a much lower cost (\$50.00) than in the open market and it can be specifically set up for nonprofits. It was moved, seconded, and passed to authorize the expenditure of up to \$200.00 for Quickbooks software. Ron pointed out that the TechSoup option required applying for a membership. He agreed to do the membership application.

It was observed that at this time the only person with website access codes was our Webmaster – he said he would forward that information to the president. The president requested the information be sent to the secretary instead. Related to websites, it was pointed out that the primary business of our current host is in gaming (Minecraft, etc.). Also we don't know who owns our data. Ron said he would look for a more suitable alternative.

The president asked if that was related to Google for nonprofits with the proposal of Thompson's Mills SP being hosted by the BMS there in such a way as to allow Thompson's Mills SP unlimited data. It was not related. A rough explanation was given of how Google for nonprofits could be used for the Mill's benefit for unlimited data storage. After some discussion

it was moved, seconded, and approved to table that proposal until a more complete explanation could be obtained.

The President reported on his November 10th meeting with Jullie Whalen of OPRD. They discussed several projects that were important to the OPRD Mill staff with emphasis on things that would cost \$1,000 to \$2,000. Of several items discussed, the one that was both, important to OPRD and fell within the BMS expense parameters was fencing in the orchard and garden area. Total material cost estimates were roughly \$1,600 - \$2,000. The possibility of cost sharing was also mentioned in this project. Labor was not included - though this could provide a more specific project in our attempts to find volunteers for the Mill. Also discussed was a low cost labor intensive project - mulching around the trees in the orchard. Other items discussed were: the bridge webcam was irreparably damaged - replacement would run around \$200; the silo murals are old enough they may need touching up, closer inspection and costs estimates would need to be obtained; painting the Mill's rear deck - another project in which materials are already paid for but lacks labor input; power washing and repairing the front fence also is only needing labor. All in all the top priority seemed to be the fencing project. It was requested that the Thompson's Mills Park Ranger submit a written wish list prior to the January board meeting for the BMS board's consideration of what items to put on the Annual Meeting budget proposal. He agreed to do that. (He also bought up something that occurred after the President's meeting with Julie Whalen - there is an experienced party who expressed interest in holding a cider pressing event at Thompson's Mills, there is a ready supply of apples and he owns a cider press. The owners of the orchards are unwilling to have the public on their property, so what is needed is a venue to hold this type of event. This could be a great low cost weekend event that could boost Mill attendance. The BMS could figure prominently in helping make this happen. The gentleman involved is expected in the area in January and hopefully can meet with the BMS to discuss the possibilities.)

Discussed in the meeting with ORPD was the idea of having replica Thompon's Mills pencils made to distribute to the students on the bus tours as souvenirs .

Also discussed with Julie was if there was any way that the BMS could help expedite getting the gift shop inventory out of storage and available to the public. She is very much in favor of the Society resuming operation of the Thompson's Mills Gift Shop. She is exploring to find if there is any way to have the BMS run the shop without being a friends group. To date she has not found a way but is still inquiring.

Discussion followed about what the nature of the Society's relationship should be with OPRD and how to set up the terms of operating the store in such a way as to help restore confidence between the two entities, if and when we would want to reopen the store , and what the expenses would be. A committee consisting of Jim Ballard, Anita Lewis, & Elaine Lutzeier was set up to examine the benefits and challenges of reopening the gift shop in more detail.

OPRD Ranger, Tom Parsons gave a brief update of what is happening at the Mill. This includes silo repair, adding protection of the over 100 support posts in the basement from water damage with borate rods and borate spray to counter powder post beetles on the first floor (borate is a non-toxic chemical - moisture in the wood draws the borate into the posts and alters the wood so it is more resistant to fungus and rot and is less tasty to insects), and meeting with a planner to help improve the historical appearance of the park. Promoting the school bus group tours was discussed in relation to linking those tours to grades where Oregon State history is being

taught. A couple of the large cedar trees near the mill owners house died over the summer and will need to be removed. A map was passed out showing the locations of desired future improvements planned for the grounds - included were: the above mentioned orchard/garden fence hiking trails totaling nearly a mile in length, a demonstration wheat field, a potential recreation of Calapooya Indian mounds that had actually been on Thompson's Mills property, a portion of ground that has been mowed for Central Linn students to plant camus, a bicyclist camp (distant future), and a host camp located where their RV's would not clash with the historic theme of the Mill. It was stated, "The property has great potential with a 150 year old mill as the centerpiece."

The President reported that he had talked with Troy Cunningham regarding holding the annual meeting at the Teen Challenge Building and was waiting for a reply from him.

The President presented an idea for making the membership registration period more uniform and could help relieve record keeping headaches. No action was taken at this time as the intent was to have this considered as a potential item for vote at the next meeting.

The President then handed out a draft of possible by-laws changes for everyone to consider for presentation for vote at the special annual meeting. Potential changes are open to revision up until they are published after the January board meeting. The President will send out an email draft copy for review. comments, and revision proposals by the board.

There was some discussion of a alternative meeting date other than the third Tuesday of the month in order to avoid a scheduling conflict. No suitable alternative day of the week could be settled upon, so no change was made.

It was pointed out that there are three Board positions that are up for vote at the annual meeting, that of Don Ware, and Spencer Lewis, and the unfilled post vacated in August 2015.

The meeting was then opened to comments and questions from non-board BMS members: Bob McCormack had questions concerning future drinking water plans for the Mill which were answered by Tom Parsons. Bob also expressed some doubts about various changes under board consideration and wanted more information about legal considerations, if any. Some discussion followed. Bob offered ideas for marketing gift shop merchandise outside of the Mill grounds.

The next meeting was scheduled at 6:00 PM, Tuesday, January 19, 2016.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45

Submitted by Anita Lewis, BMS Secretary