

Thompson's Mills Preservation Society Board Meeting Minutes

Shedd Fire Station – September 19, 2017 – 6PM

Present were: Ron VanOrden, Treasurer; Jim Ballard, Carl Browning, Larry Thompson, Board members at large; Bob McCormick, Ranger Tom Parsons, TMPS members.

Absent were: Spencer Lewis, President; Donald Lyon, Secretary; Don Ware, Patti Linn, Board members at large.

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The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Ron VanOrden.

The minutes from the May 16, 2017 Board Meeting were read and no corrections were offered. Jim Ballard moved to approve the minutes, Larry Thompson seconded the motion. The vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

The board acknowledged the resignation of Spencer Lewis (via letter submitted August 29, 2017). The group engaged in a general discussion about who might fill the vacancy. During the discussion Bob McCormick asked who was on the bank account. Ron VanOrden responded that, as far as he knew; only he and Spencer Lewis had account access and if Don Lyon had access Ron had no knowledge of it. The discussion ended with Bob McCormick recommending Jim Ballard for the office. Upon determining Jim's willingness, Ron VanOrden moved that Jim be elected to serve as President for the remainder of the existing term (through the 2018 annual meeting). Larry Thompson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous in favor. The board thanked Jim for his willingness to serve.

The Treasurer's Report was provided by Ron VanOrden with the distribution of a year-to-date Financial Summary. From a 2017 opening cash balance of \$23,423.96, as of September 16, 2017, income is \$1312.58 and expenses are \$9856.71 for a cash balance of \$14879.53. Non-Cash assets are estimated to be worth \$5787.00. The remaining approved spending commitments for the year amount to \$10,973.57 leaving \$3905.96 of our cash uncommitted. Ron explained the major changes; school bus subsidies to Eugene school district 4J and purchase of the cider press. Carl Browning asked for an explanation of the status of the Linn County Cultural Coalition matching grant for the second cider press. Ron allowed that he did not know the requirements of that grant and suggested we could ask Rebecca Bond about it at a later meeting.

The following general discussion items were entertained.

Our Town Directory: Ron VanOrden reported that he had signed TMPS up for two entries in the current Our Town publication. The first is under Thompson's Mills Preservation Society and it gives a brief explanation of what we are about, the second is under Boston

Mill Society and points the reader to the TMPS entry. Carl Browning asked what the Our Town directory is. Bob McCormick explained it as a directory of local organization and that we have been listed for several years, but we missed-out last year due to waiting too long.

Website Status: Ron VanOrden reported that the website is still down and he was having no luck getting in contact with our site host. The last effort is to reach out to the owner of our host's domain name to see if we can determine what is going on. So far there has been no response. We will likely have to move the hosting to a different organization and restore the site from a backup. More to follow.

Gift Shop (Store) Inventory: Ranger Tom Parsons presented a form that he developed to track the disposition of the Gift Shop inventory as it is distributed (before the mice ruin it) to interested Mill visitors in exchange for their TMPS membership and/or a donation. Ron VanOrden expressed a need for accountability, but conceded that there is no record of what had been handed out since the gift shop was discontinued, and if there ever was a full inventory, nobody can produce a copy. Since the Board gave Tom the go-ahead to use the inventory for promotional purposes, he has had significant success and has been using the form. It seems prudent to allow Tom to continue, because he is generating memberships and donations. Ron asked Tom to provide a current copy of the form to him via email.

Fire Suppression Spending: Carl Browning asked about Fire Suppression spending going forward and ORPD's response to our efforts thus far. Ranger Tom Parsons explained that there are currently two working lists of attention items, Nick Artum's list (the consultant) and Julie Whalen's (formerly ORPD District Manager for the Mill). Tom allowed that ORPD is interested in a broad solution to protecting the mill. ORPD appreciates the exposure of the mill to fire, our contribution to-date does carry weight, the price tag to protect the first floor and basement (ref Nick Artum's report) is about \$250K, some ORPD "Big Wigs" will be visiting the mill soon, and TMPS should "say hello" to ORPD independent of Tom (Tom can provide contact information) to convey our interest in mill preservation.

Mill PA system: Ranger Tom Parsons reported that he has received funding to get the PA system working at the mill. It should be functional by spring.

It was reported that there is no new news on getting some highway signage to promote the mill. We need to get the ear of someone(s) at the upper levels of ORPD and/or ODOT to get any traction on this.

School tour news was reported by Jim Ballard (backup/color commentary provided by Ranger Tom Parsons). Teachers were surveyed about how the program went last year and the results were positive, with many planning on repeating the mill visit this year. Specific draw points are; living history (not a museum) and the interactive nature of the mill. We have started communicating with schools again now that school has started, specifically targeting schools and

districts that did not bite on the opportunity last year. With repeats from last year and new groups this year, there is an expectation of more than 1000 students visiting the mill this year!

The Cider Pressing event news was reported by Carl Browning. Carl proposes moving ahead with the Cider Pressing event on 10/28. This would provide valuable experience for a future larger and better advertised event. Several obstacles remain, but Carl will lead the effort and he is committed to seeing this through. Ranger Tom Parsons asked if perhaps the cider press could be loaned out. Ron VanOrden suggested we consider the ramifications of loaning out the press after we had the first event behind us.

Membership Committee progress was reported by Larry Thompson. Unfortunately there has been no substantive progress. Ron VanOrden reported that crafting a membership card from Tom Adam's sketch of the mill is on his to-do list.

The next Board Meeting was set for November 21, 2017; 6PM at the Shedd Fire Station.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM

These minutes submitted by Ron VanOrden, Treasurer.