

Thompson's Mills Preservation Society Annual Minutes
March 4, 2018, Halsey City Hall

Member's Present: Jim Ballard, President; Ron VanOrden, Treasurer, Donald Lyon, Secretary. Carl Browning, Larry Thompson, Patty Linn, Members at Large. Carolee St. Clair, Park Host and Member. Bob McCormick, Don and Norma Arthur, and Roy Thompson, members.

President Jim Ballard called the meeting to order at 1:10pm. Board Members were introduced. Minutes from 2.25.17 were approved, Larry moved, Patty 2nd.

Ron VanOrden gave Treasurer's Report which included three documents: Financial Summary for 2017, Financial Statement--Rolling Four Year and Financial Summary through March 4 for 2018. Ron called for any outstanding requests for reimbursements to be sent to him. 2017 Summary shows opening balance of \$23,424, Cash balance of \$16,694. Non cash assets estimated at \$4466. 2017 commitments of \$9458 and uncommitted cash of \$7506. Carolee St. Clair said that non-cash assets included wooden toys and smaller sizes of sweatshirts. Suggestion made to sell wooden toys to Monteith House. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report made by Larry, 2nd by Don.

Highlights of 2017 report by Tom Parsons. He summarized from Newsletter (Jan. 2018) article. Cider Pressing events (3 total) were #1 highlight. Painting was proceeding slowly due to lead abatement procedures. Gutters were being installed. Fred Walters had presented ideas for 2018 improvements. OPRD provided a thorough check of electrical system--no hot spots were found. Shedd Fire Department toured the mill to proactively plan for response to a fire. Tour included roof. Alarm system is being installed. Continuing problem with grain in bins. Oregon Industrial Accident group will assess. Meanwhile rodents and sprouting grain create problems.

School Group visits increased in 2017 and expected to continue for 2018. Some discussion about TM reimbursing Schools for expenses to visit. Determined that amounts must be limited. Host RV sites will be moved from current prominent locations to those less visible to visitors--by June. "Open the Flume Gates" continues to sell well. Twelve native white oaks were planted and 50 volunteers discovered as blackberries were cleared. Restoration of part of acreage as native savannah is a long range goal. Former office manager from 1970's Dorothy Parker made a visit during one of the cider pressing events and reminisced with Tom. The Hammer Mill is operational and occasionally run--potential event for public.

Much of the delay in moving ahead with projects is that OPRD seems to ignore existence and value of TM. Park employees are prohibited from advising visitors to complain to Park or State officials but everyone is encouraged to communicate with "influential individuals" about the value of TM. Tom shared a multi-page document containing some interesting ways to make Mill more "relevant and useful" for public

and for Park Department. One frustration is that it seems to take a disaster before any action is taken, rarely is necessary work performed in advance. Rotting posts in basement and lack of paint are examples. Tom said restoration of silos #1 summer project. It was suggested that the OPRD Master Plan be reviewed to see what is on the books for projects. At the moment the relationship between OPRD and TMPS has not been recognized officially by OPRD despite letter written by Jim Ballard last year. No response to that missive. The fact that TM is unique among OPRD properties makes it the last to receive consideration, it is believed.

Discussion of Tom's report included mention that Society for the Preservation of Old Mills has requested a review of Tom Adams' book, which will be done by Don Lyon. Park Host Carolee mentioned that most frequent comment by visitors is that they wished the mill were painted. Carolee also volunteered to keep a more complete record of how visitors learned of the mill. It was mentioned that the OPRD website has a page for TM--visitors can be encouraged to make comments on that page. Tom was asked about OPRD vacancies being filled and he reported that his boss Joey Martinez was now full time and higher up positions would be filled too. This should make it easier for these individuals to begin to take action. It was suggested that Gov. Kate Brown be invited to TM Events. Carl later provided a link for people to make suggestions of events for the governor.

The 2018 Budget was outlined by Jim and Ron. Recognized that increased membership is needed. Currently around 140 dues paying members. Ron has one list of emails and another with street addresses. The Newsletter is to be continued and money needs to be budgeted for mailing, and promotion. A brochure with a "self-guided tour" is to be created and funds needed for that. Budgeting for a second cider press was deemed unnecessary at this time and the \$1000 in 2017 budget could be used to purchase a portable quern for visits to schools (to demonstrate how mill stones produce flour). Meadow Mills quern would cost about \$1000. Don moved that \$1000 be used to purchase quern, 2nd by Larry. The fire suppression study by Nick Artim of Heritage Protection Group was discussed and explained by Ron. He had sent a 23 February, 2018 description of the project to all Board Members. Task 2, the next step, will cost \$7270. Patty moved to continue funding, Larry provided 2nd. Carl opined that OPRD should pay for fire suppression system but Ron and Tom indicated that it was up to TMPS to get the ball rolling.

Jim will seek a grant from Oregon Cultural Trust to receive funds for School Group reimbursements. Bob McCormick suggested that a book by Oregon Women in Ag that outlined how schools might be more involved be acquired and used to attract school groups. Bob felt that the Self Guided Tour brochure should receive top priority. Possibility of producing a video to show teachers what was offered at the mill was mentioned. Tom said he was anxious to have more school groups.

It was decided to increase office budget to \$800. In 2017 Albany Visitor Assoc. ads cost \$316. Ron made motion, Don 2nd, to budget \$500 for advertising. Jim will check on cost of having advertising for TM at Corvallis and Albany theatres. Amount

estimated at \$90 per month per theatre. Don moved, Patty 2nd, that \$800 be budgeted for cider pressing expenses--jugs and apples.

A local family is interested in paying to construct a fence around the garden. Bob asked about the orchard--which will need a fence eventually but so far the deer have not bothered the young trees. Larry moved, Ron 2nd, that \$1000 be budgeted for orchard and garden. Carl moved, Larry 2nd that budget be approved.

Planned activities at the Mill in 2018: Some suggestions--Patty encouraged a music/dancing event. Tom had an idea for a Linn County Trivia Contest. Don and Patty agreed to help. Perhaps 2-Towns Cider would participate. This could be an annual summer event. Tom indicated that he is free to shift hours so he is available for evening activities. A Thursday Cruise-In such as Shedd Cafe once hosted was another idea.

Election of Board Members: Jim, Don, Larry, Patty agreed to serve another two years. Carl and Ron's terms expire in 2019.

New Business: Bob McCormick stated that the Self Guided Tour and Membership cards had been agreed upon but had not been realized. The need for a member application and interest card was brought up. Ron will seek to revise and reprint the card dating from Boston Mill days. Don to send a more colorful image of mill to Ron. Bob also suggested a "scrapbook" be maintained by the secretary so that a record was maintained of Mill family members and Mill events as they occurred in newspapers and elsewhere. Don agreed and asked that members save articles of interest for him. Larry contributed news clipping from when Tom began at the Mill seven years ago.

Gateway Imprints in Lebanon has produced TMPS logo merchandise in the past. Don has agreed to visit and obtain a catalog to see about caps, aprons, T-shirts, sweatshirts and such items that would identify Board members during events such as cider pressing. Coin purse might be an inexpensive give-away.

It was decided to organize a Volunteer Work Day to put up fencing. Also that meetings would be every 60 days with May 17 being next meeting, 6 pm at Shedd Fire Dept. The next annual meeting will be scheduled for the first two months of 2019. Patty moved, Jim 2nd to adjourn the meeting--time 3:10. A group picture was made with all Board members and new TMPS banner.