



Thompson's Mills Preservation Society

formerly known as the Boston Mill Society

tmppsonline.org

Thompson's Mills Preservation Society Minutes

November 27, 2018 (revised 3.10.19, 3.18.19 and 4.1.19)

Members Present: Jim Ballard, President; Ron VanOrden, Treasurer; Donald Lyon, Secretary, Larry Thompson, Board Member at Large. Carl Browning and Patty Linn absent. Roy Thompson, TMPS member, Tom Parsons, Ranger; Sarah Steele, District Manager Willamette Valley; Tammy Baumann, Visitor Experience Coordinator, Valleys Region also present.

1) Meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by President Jim Ballard. Minutes of October meeting were accepted, motion made by Ron, 2nd by Don--Unanimous.

2) Ron VanOrden gave the Treasurer's Report including Financial Summary sheet for 1.1.18-11.23.18. Opening balance was \$16,963.76. Commitments \$11,622.57 and cash uncommitted of \$11,213.24. Ron noted that we are not spending much directly on the mill and grounds. Income is slowly increasing. Don turned over \$164 in income from sales of cider which he made after the October 27 pressing and the income from the hard cider workshop. He also provided reimbursable receipts for a bin of apples (\$140) and for 4 sawhorses for cider pressing. Move to accept report made by Larry, 2nd by Jim. Unanimous.

Jim took a few minutes to ask our OPRD guests to introduce themselves. Sarah is Tom's boss's boss and Tammy is involved with identifying critical and useful artifacts that can be used for exhibits as well as coordinating the development of exhibits and signs. Sarah had a letter from OPRD for TMPS acknowledging OPRD's appreciation of the role that TMPS plays. Last year Jim had written to OPRD to explain what TMPS was doing and that we wanted to be engaged with OPRD to help with future projects. Sarah also explained a bit about why communication had been so slow over the past few years and confirmed that she was very excited about the potential for development at Thompson's Mills.

3. Wrap-up of 2018 apple pressing and cider events by Don and others. Don gave a brief description of the cider pressing events and the plan to use these promoted activities to draw people to the mill for first and regular visits. Don estimated that the Saturday cider events drew at least 150 visitors each time and sometimes much more. Tom noted that visitors who had first helped press cider were considerably more engaged and excited about their tours inside the mill. Jim also described his impressions of the benefits of holding the cider pressing events. Sarah had attended the 2nd to the last one, so she had some understanding of the effect--and the quality of the cider. Tom mentioned that in the future we would pay more attention to dates so as not to conflict with major happenings in the area. Don described briefly that our last event had been a hard cider workshop which received late publicity and was held on Veterans Day--resulting in a small turnout. This is normally a very popular event in Brownsville.

4. Fundraising Projects--Silos: Lori Rodriguez is the Silverton Painter who painted the two flour logos on the Silos when the mill opened as a park. She has expressed interest in doing the touchup painting and has requested more information which OPRD would have to coordinate. She mentioned that the work should be done before mid June to adhere to the whitewashed concrete walls properly.

5. Tom Parsons: Tom mentioned that the first step in getting the Fire Suppression project going was to begin the Fire Suppression Planning Project with the money that TMPS has budgeted. Ron noted that this amount was \$7270. Sarah acknowledged that OPRD was very much aware of the

complexities and multitude of the projects ahead. A lengthy dialog followed with considerable input by Sarah, Tammy and Tom. Sarah acknowledged that TM has been undervalued in the past and that the path forward is complex. Insuring the integrity of the structure is the first priority. How to connect people to the Mill, what function should the Mill House serve?, creating a diverse recreational portfolio to include the bike trail, bike camping, garden and orchard were all mentioned as areas that needed work. Events and how to schedule them given current hours of operation was another concern. This jumble of diverse ideas demonstrates the complexity of where to begin!

Sarah said that painting of the entire structure is to begin in the near future (along with whitewashing the silos. Some discussion about TMPS getting grants indicates that TMPS should work closely with OPRD because successful grant requests places money into OPRD which needs to be considered and accounted for within OPRD. In short, TMPS needs an OK from OPRD before it even applies for a grant. It was suggested that OPRD could help with grants for signage. Jim, Larry and Roy all had ideas to suggest having to do with new projects such as exhibits. Tammy mentioned the Anvil Academy in Newberg as an organization that trains youth in traditional skills such as woodworking or cooperage. This Academy might be interested in helping to create exhibits.

The Bike Camping project was also discussed--needs some OK's from OPRD first. Highway signage to direct people to the Mill was also discussed. Tammy has some information and should be contacted about this. The Scenic Byways project is Joey Martinez's area. Sarah talked about archiving and identifying items at the Mill that might be used in exhibits. The Ross Sprenger estate was mentioned as having a great deal of material relating to TM as Ross had worked at the Mill. Larry has some contacts with the family. Interpretation projects seem to be the easiest to OK and get going, both for inside and outside the Mill. Tom stated that there is an "Interpretive Plan" for the Mill in existence. He will provide copy and has ideas he wants to implement.

6. Policy for events at the Mill: Jim mentioned briefly the need for a policy that would insure that Tom Parson's efforts and activities benefit the Mill and not other organizations, It was decided that a meeting including Tom, Jim and Don should be convened soon to establish such policy.

7. Promotional items update: Don reported on his contacts with Gateway Imprints regarding T-shirts, tea towels, etc. Gateway in Lebanon produced most of the gift shop items in the past and has many designs for T-shirts, towels and other items. Don stated that the best price break on the T-shirts was to order at least 75 T-shirts which can be mixed in terms of designs, sizes and colors. T-shirts would then be \$10.50 each with XXL \$2 extra. Don and Jim to follow up to decide on colors, sizes, etc and will place an order so that items will be available by Spring 2019.

8. Newsletter Update: Ron stated that he had 7 pages of newsletter copy. Jim felt that TMPS should produce at least two editions per year. Hardcopy will be mailed to everyone for whom we have an address. If only an email exists, these people will receive an email edition. (Enclosures will include an invitation to the annual meeting, the membership card (for current members), and membership forms for others. The mailing may involve postage for more than 1 oz.) Ron reports that this sentence should be amended to read: Invitation to the Annual Meeting is to be sent by separate mail. Corrected 3.18.19.

9. Annual Meetings is 1 pm, Sunday, January 27, 2019 at Halsey Community Center.

10. New Business--no new business.

11. Adjourn: motion by Larry, 2nd by Don at 7:45pm. Next meeting is Annual. Minutes sent to Board and guests on 11.30.18 by Secretary Donald Lyon. Corrections were made by Jim. Revised minutes sent to Board members on 3.10.19