

## Thompson's Mills Preservation Society Board Minutes May 28, 2019

Members Present: Jim Ballard, President; Ron VanOrden, Treasurer; Larry Thompson, Board Member at Large; Patty Linn, Board Member at Large; Tom Parsons, TMPS member, and Roy Thompson, TMPS member. Guest Nancye Ballard. Absent were Carl Browning and Don Lyon.

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by President Jim Ballard. Because corrected minutes of the April 23 board meeting have not been presented, the group had to postpone approval of those minutes until next meeting. Members were asked to send suggestions for revision to Secretary Don Lyon.
- 2) Treasurer's Report: Ron VanOrden presented the report, explaining some details. As of May 24, our solicitation to raise money to repaint the images on the silos had generated more than \$3,000. Jim noted that a few contributors were not previously on our membership list. Patty moved, Larry seconded that the treasurer's report be accepted. Motion passed.
- 3) Jim Ballard announced that Anita Lewis, former Board secretary and wife of Spencer Lewis, former Board president, died recently after a long illness. A sympathy card for Spencer was circulated for board members and other attendees to sign.
- 4) Larry wants to buy 100 Thompson's Mills postcards for his vintage car group that will visit the Mill in August. Jim informed him that additional cards can be ordered from Vista Print.
- 5) Target marketing project: Jim has been impressed with the response to the silo painting; along with their donations, some donors have thanked us for the work we're doing. He will send a personal note to each contributor; in addition, the name of each person who gives at least \$50 will be published in the newsletter. The entire process shows that our members will help with specific projects when asked.

We have had fairly good success with tee shirts and postcards, but we need to expand what we have for sale. Hosts have requested tea towels, for example. Don has obtained some information about pricing these from Gateway printing. We will have a few available shortly that will help us determine how to proceed with future ordering. Other suggestions – cups and caps. Penny Power, a host, has donated her time to re sew bags for sale. Tom pointed out that additional inventory might trigger more sales. He will research mugs.

Additional discussion on the store. During apple pressings in the fall, we should have a person dedicated to selling our merchandise either inside or outside.

- 6) Jim anticipates that, by the end of the school year, 600-700 children will have visited the Mill. The quern purchased by TMPS has been assembled and used at the Mill. Don Power, host, constructed a cart for the quern.
- 7) Newsletter: Ron reported that he's accumulated sufficient text, except for the silo donation acknowledgement. Jim will compose that statement soon. Ron could use photos. Tom commented that photos at the Mill could be used.
- 8) Summer events: Tom and Jim mentioned the possibility of car club gatherings that used to take place in Shedd. If re-established, these events could be billed as "Thursday Evening Cruise-In at the Mill," promoting community involvement. A food truck would be desirable if it can be worked out so that TMPS doesn't have to spend so much

money. Tom mentioned that \$50 insurance would be needed. He will ask the Albany Visitors' Association (AVA) Board regarding a food truck and if a minimum amount would be required. District Manager Sarah Steele has given her approval. Much discussion.

9) Tom Parsons' report: Tom discussed work on the head gate extension, where a platform will be built and a boom lift will not be needed. An OSU professor in the film studies department who wants to film the house and grounds obtained a grant for this purpose. New hosts arrive at the beginning of June. Bacteria is being flushed out of the new water system. The Mill is participating in the AVA's Kids' passport program. Children get stamps at various locations they visit. TMPS will donate two shirts as an award and OPRD will pay a required fee so that the Mill can participate. The Mill needs advertising, a significant expense. We need to investigate options with KRVM and/or KLCC. Jason Rauch, the OPRD employee in charge of communications, noticed no signs are posted to direct people to the Mill except on Hwy 99E. Tom still wants to talk with farmers about allowing murals to be painted on their barns. Permits would be required. Tom hopes TMPS will be patient.

"The silos are getting there," though difficulties in getting new concrete to adhere to the old have caused delays. Lori Rodriguez may not paint the images until fall.

In 2007, the Mill attracted 3,000 – 4,000 visitors; now, the visitation is more than 10,000 annually.

7:17 p.m., Tom left the meeting.

10) Current status vs. Friends' group – Though we've considered this matter, Jim thinks "we should sit on it for now." One of the main reasons is that OPRD does not have a structure in place for Friends' groups at this time.

11) New business: Larry T. asked about brochures. Jim reported that Tom recently said that new brochures are in.

Next meeting: June 23, 2019

At 7: 30 p.m., Larry moved to adjourn, seconded by Patty. Motion passed.

Nancye Ballard  
Substitute Scribe