

**I. The Boston Mill Society (BMS) allocates \$15,000 in fiscal year 2015-2016 for the preparation of report on the installation of a fire suppression system in the mill. The rationale for the timing and need for this funding request is as follows:**

**A. There is no more pressing need for the long-term preservation of the mill than the prevention of catastrophic fire. Susceptibility to fire is no stranger to the history of the mill; the original 1858 mill burned to the ground and the current mill has been threatened by fire on a number of occasions during its 150+ year history. The recent cases of arson in Scio and Albany also remind us that no matter what is done to prevent an accidental fire, there are still outside forces that could burn it to the ground.**

**B. Obtaining funding for a fire suppression system from the State or other sources will require a thorough expert assessment of the engineering and costs necessary to install such a system at the Mill. We cannot even ask for money to fund a fire suppression system until this report is in hand! Obviously, the sooner we can get an expert's report the better. We have been told that funding for such a report by OPRD is not possible this biennium and there is no guarantee of funding the next biennium since any request by Thompson's Mills State Heritage Site will need to compete statewide with compelling proposals from other units. Timely funding by the BMS will take the uncertainty out of the process and put the Mill on a trajectory of making a fire suppression system a reality.**

**C. It is interesting to note that the BMS under former President Brooks Calvin led a charge to install a fire suppression system but momentum slowed when total costs were realized and the idea has remained fallow until recently. The BMS has the opportunity to be the catalyst and make a significant and lasting impact on the long-term preservation of the Mill.**

**D. An internationally renowned expert in this field is Nick Artim, President of the Heritage Protection Group, Consulting Fire Protection Engineers. Nick has been contacted and is interested in this project. His current project is the Oregon Capitol building and his previous projects include several National Park Service historic sites, Library and Archives Canada, the Scottish Supreme Court, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Vermont State House and Thomas Jefferson's Monticello.**

**II. The following resolution is accepted by the membership: "The focus of the Boston Mill Society is the preservation of the Mill, the Mill site and other structures, its historic artifacts, interpretative programs related to history of the Mill, and other activities directly related to Thompson's Mills State Heritage Site. All funds raised by the society are to be restricted to supporting this focus." Rationale for this resolution:**

**A.** It is important to reinforce the stated Mission and Purpose of the Boston Mill Society given the ~~upheaval and friction between the Board and OPRD this past year~~ Change in relationship with OPRD.

**B.** The following excerpt from the BMS March 17, 2015 Board Meeting suggests that the Board may be contemplating an expanded role for the Society: *"Mike informed the board that he wants to restore the WOW Hall in Shedd. He explained that he would no longer continue the application process to form a 501c3 for the purpose of restoring this historic Shedd building contingent on the BMS agreeing to form a historical agricultural hall entitled Boston Mill Society Agricultural Heritage Center. When completed the building can be rented out and become a gathering place for the community."*

**C.** Given that the BMS funds were accumulated through annual membership dues, profits from the gift store and/or by donations made by visitors with the express purpose of supporting the Mill, this seems like the only reasonable and ethical use of these funds.