

Thompson's Mills Preservation Society Board Meeting Minutes--1st draft January 23, 2018

Present: Board Members Jim Ballard, Carl Browning, Ron VanOrden, Patty Linn, Don Lyon, Larry Thompson. Visitors: Rebecca Bond, Tom Parsons, Joel Hanson, Bob McCormick.

Minutes: President Jim Ballard called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Minutes were approved with one correction--Nov. 28, 2017 Ron VanOrden presented the financial summary (not the budget).

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Ron VanOrden presented the Financial Summary for January 1-23, 2018. Opening balance of \$16,963.76. Income for the period was \$430 (from memberships and a donation). Cash uncommitted is \$6405.19--up from \$5491.96 last summary. See Ron's summary for additional details.

Discussion followed about whether purchase of a second cider press had been included in previous budget figures or whether such a purchase could be delayed. Jim suggested waiting for a year. Carl agreed to apply for an Oregon Cultural Trust Grant. Tom agreed to research how other Oregon State Parks were using these funds. Subject would be revisited at Annual Meeting.

Website Discussion: Ron reported that TMPS website was back up and running. Ron had found a firm that was able to reactivate the old website. Two domain names are in effect including TMPSonline.org and one using the old Boston Mills name. There is another name reserved that includes the words Thompson's Mills so that the website can be easily discovered.

Membership Committee (Ron and Larry): Ron reported that the Membership list for TMPS is located on his Google Drive. We have 48 members. Jim said that a Renewal letter was needed. Larry showed an old form used under Boston Mills name that was on card stock, about 4"x9" that could be updated with TMPS name and used to solicit membership and gather data. Tom said there is a "Donation Station" located at the end of the Mill's Self Guided Tour that is just one appropriate place for the "Join Now" brochure. The use of Tom Adams' book as an incentive was discussed. Tom Adams is to be contacted by Jim regarding ordering more books. As the book's cost is about \$15 it was unclear if the book would be given as an incentive for a substantially larger donation or a part of membership. Jim suggested book provided for donation of \$50 or more beyond membership cost. Larry suggested a book for contribution of \$50 or more including membership cost. A motion to use the book as incentive was made, 2nd'ed and approved. Details to be worked out at Annual Meeting.

Ron said that in addition to 48 members he had contact information for 161 people--some emails, some addresses. (Secretary's note: Tom has additional contact data from Mill visitors, which could be added to a master contact list/data base). Tom

mentioned the Newlin Grist Mill's (in Pennsylvania) year end newsletter as an example of a fresh way to reach out to community. Board Members are asked to check out this document online prior to Annual Meeting. The subject of creating one or more large all-weather banners that would urge TMPS membership was raised. Don said he would contact Steve Brenner about designing an attractive banner with website info, membership request, Shedd, Oregon and TMPS name. Ron mentioned we had \$184 left in budget for such an item(s). Don will send a mock up to Board.

Newsletter: Jim stated that the purpose of the newsletter is to keep the membership interested in our projects, urge their renewals and activity. He stated that optimum number of newsletters per year is three. Jim writes invitation to join/renew and the offer of Tom Adam's book with donations. Patty writes about school group experience, Don about the cider pressing events. Tom describes 2017 in Review. 30 day requirement??--help me here. Because we don't have email addresses for everyone there is thought to be a need for both online and printed newsletter. Ron is willing to oversee production of a very basic newsletter. It was suggested that someone with more time relieve Ron of this responsibility.

Grant Possibilities: Don described the Willamette Valley Visitor Association Grant Program meeting recently hosted by Albany Visitor's Association (including Rebecca Bond). Tom and Don attended. Grant applications are due by March 1. Project must meet criteria of bringing new people to the area. Don made a motion that he pursue a grant in the \$2-\$10k range. Carl seconded. Board would need to identify a project.

Tom Parsons: Tom described the Newlin Grist Mill programs including the idea that grain silos were being used as climbing walls, inside and out. He felt we had to think outside of the "save the mill" mentality to bring people to the site in sufficient numbers to get the attention of the Oregon Parks Department for the bigger fire suppression system project. His examples, to stimulate our thinking, included Nature Trails, Trails for the Blind, snorkeling under the mill, signage, insulating the North Warehouse to create a theatre (to show introductory film). Solar Panel Farm, Server Farm utilizing water powered electricity, cooling. Identifying and renovating Kalapuya Indian Mounds, establishing a wheat field to harvest wheat for the mill. Making the mill attractive and available as a film location, inviting Oregon Field Guides, renovating the house, including installing a commercial kitchen and creating a hiker/biker camping site. This last idea is to be the grant project for WVVA grant (see above). Tom said that the ideas he mentioned were designed, in many cases, to make a visit to the Mill more physically active.

Tom also updated Board about the Fire Suppression System Study. First stage was to identify need and estimate cost. Now the 2nd stage, which will cost several thousand dollars can go ahead. It will create actual plans and list of materials so that a contractor could actually begin work.

Tom reported that Smead Communication in Eugene is ready to install the communication system to be used with school groups. The Orchard and Garden area would make use of cedar posts purchased earlier. Tom will attend a February 11 meeting of a bike group in Albany to see if he might offer the Mill has a stopover for their events. Don suggests that the meeting be used to gather more info about how a hiker/biker campsite might look. Tom has details about such sites at other parks.

Annual Meeting: March 4, 2018 at 1PM at Halsey City Hall. Patty to confirm with Don Ware that space has been reserved. (Who will have key?) Board, and others, to send items for Annual Meeting Agenda to Jim. Don suggested that we identify four seasonal events that the Mill might host in Winter, Spring and Summer. Cider Pressing is the Fall event. Some ideas that were mentioned--2019 Chevrolet Rally/Event in Albany (Larry Thompson), Ugly Truck Contest or other car events such as Shedd Cafe once hosted. Steam Engines, Blacksmithing, Pioneer Days, Black Powder events.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM. Minutes compiled and submitted by Donald Lyon.