

Thompson's Mills Preservation Society Board Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 6PM by President Spencer Lewis. Present were Spencer Lewis, Treasurer Ron VanOrden, Secretary Donald Lyon, other Board Members Jim Ballard, Carl Browning and Don Ware. Also present were Tom Parsons, OPRD Head Ranger for Thompson's Mills, TMPS member Bob McCormack and guest Patty Linn. Larry Thompson was not present.

Minutes of January 31, 2017 were moved and accepted with the correction that last sentence of 4th paragraph from bottom, be deleted--strike "Attempts are being made to involve State Dept. of Education" in School Bus Tour program.

Don Ware introduced guest Patty Linn of Brownsville and nominated her for a position on the Board. Don Lyon seconded, motion passed unanimously. Patty's email is same as Don Ware.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Ron VanOrden. A Financial Summary for January 1-April 18, 2017 was provided to each member--opening balance of \$23,423.96 and closing balance of \$16,906.83. Major expense was \$7719.41 for the fire suppression study. \$13,463.87 has been committed to spend during remainder of year and \$3442.96 remains uncommitted. It was stated that all statutory obligations would be met.

Highway Signs: There was some discussion about requesting signage on state and county right of way to attract visitors to the Mill. Particularly desired are signs at Halsey and Tangent where there are exits off I-5. It seems that any action on this issue would have to begin again since Julie Whalen, the former Director of the Southern Management Unit of OR State Parks had resigned. Dennis Lucas is new District Manager and would be person to contact to restart project (Tom Parsons will contact). Tom Parsons suggested TMPS members pursue any contacts they had. Spencer Lewis will contact ODOT re Highway 34 signs. Patty Linn will contact Linn County as will Bob McCormack.

Fire Suppression: Tom Parsons updated cost from almost one million to about \$408,000. Possible need to aircharge pipes in winter was discussed. Tom stated that installing the fire suppression equipment might mean reducing winter staff from three to one person which could free up those salaries could possibly be applied to hiring summer staff to do maintenance. New equipment would automatically regulate millpond level which currently requires presence of staff.

School Tours update by Jim Ballard: He reported that there were 3 tours, about 150 kids in March, four tours in April and three in May scheduled. About 500 students served with very positive feedback and 80% return rate from year to year. More volunteers are needed to cover "information stations" with 10 minute talks. Current program meets curriculum requirements for 3rd and 4th graders. Jim and others have visited schools to inform staff of tours.

Cider Press report by Carl Browning: Large Heirloom Cider press has been ordered from Corell. Down payment has been provided. Ron VanOrden will be available to pick up the press in August or September, upon completion. Total cost of Press will be \$1400 with discount. Spencer Lewis will send formal letter of thanks to Linn County Cultural Coalition's Rebecca Bonds for their grant enabling purchase of second press in the near future. Tom Parsons described conversations with officials of other parks and concluded that Food Handler's license would be advisable for at least one person present at any public pressing. It also appears that liability is reduced by TMPS providing boxes of apples to public, and then helping to convert those apples into cider for a donation of approximately \$10 per gallon. Don Lyon and Carl Browning will work on the details and present to the Board.

Ron VanOrden moved to reimburse Board and Friends for the approximately \$10 Food Handler's license fee to be obtained online by Ron, Don Lyon, Don Ware, Carl Browning and Tom Parsons at least. Jim Ballard 2nded.

Membership Committee report tabled until Larry Thompson's return.

New Business: Spencer Lewis showed a small drawing of the mill which could be used to create an acknowledgement of membership for TMPS members. Dates of membership would be shown. Current membership list is 2013. This project would result in updated membership list.

Carl Browning suggested that the book by Tom Adams (and Tom Parsons) be used as an incentive to donate at a rate higher than the standard \$20 membership. The \$15 book can be purchased wholesale for \$9.

Tom Parsons described the "no cash" system to be put in place at the Mill Store and Mill events. This would work like a credit card reader and would mean staff and volunteers would not have to handle cash or cash box. Tom Parsons said that this park would be open for the time of the August 21 Solar Eclipse but would not promote the event. He asked that Board Members and others advise him if they were available to volunteer to be present on August 21.

Jim Ballard advised that local theatres could advertise the Mill on their screens for fees ranging from \$49 to \$100 per month (depends on number of screens in theatre)

Spencer Lewis reported that after May 16 he would not be available to meet until September 19.

Don Lyon and Carl Browning will devise a schedule of public cider pressing.

Tom Parson's reported that the Mill Race would have to be drained in May or June to replace rubber seals. This would effect the attractiveness of the Park for visitors.

Bob McCormack suggested that coordination with the November NW Ag group/Farmland Tractor Display be done so as to have a Thompson Mills display.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 6PM Shedd. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30PM
Minutes submitted by Secretary Donald Lyon.