

**Thompson's Mills Preservation Society Board Meeting Minutes
November 28, 2017**

Present: Board members Jim Ballard, Carl Browning, and Ron VanOrden. Visitors: Rebecca Bond and Tom Parsons.

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by acting president Jim Ballard. Minutes of the Sept. 19, 2017, board meeting were approved. Carl Browning moved, Ron VanOrden seconded.

Ron VanOrden presented the Financial Summary. Discussion about purchasing cider presses; explanation by Ron. Jim Ballard moved/Carl Browning seconded that we accept the budget. Motion passed.

Discussion of the two November apple-pressing/cider-making events. The following items were covered:

- 1) Possibility of another such event before year-end (Carl Browning and Don Lyon to explore and then decide about benefit of holding another pressing),
- 2) Possibility of pre-selling the cider for pickup,
- 3) Can we attract donations of free apples? Tom Parsons and either Jim Ballard or Ron VanOrden to visit 2Towns Cider regarding this matter.
- 4) Additional topics that need to be addressed:
 - a) Overall set-up of press and related stations,
 - b) Signage-showing TMPS as sponsor
 - c) At least one volunteer per station
 - d) More protection for juice collection (upgrading cleanliness)
 - e) Location within the Mill for the pressing.

Ron VanOrden is preparing a consolidated list of members and friends. At this point, it contains 140 names.

NOTE: Minutes above were taken by Jim Ballard. At 7 p.m., Don Lyon and Patty Linn arrived and Don took notes for the remainder of the meeting.

Membership Committee: Continued discussion of ways to attract and retain members: Jim suggested using the "Open the Flume Gates" booklet as a membership draw. Membership information should be available at all events--this could take the form of a card or a brochure.

Ron said he had about 140 names that he was putting into a database. Currently he has a mix of emails, phone numbers. These are past or current "Members". People who pay their dues after September 1 are considered members for the following calendar year. Membership is \$20 single and \$25 (?) for a couple.

It was decided that a Newsletter be created, partly to establish contact and keep in touch with present and past members. The need to consolidate lists of contacts and members was

stressed. Tom reports that he has contact information for many of the visitors to the Mill and these could be added to a database if there was a volunteer to do the data entry. Membership cards are still being considered with need to create graphics and layout of card.

Web Site Update: Ron reports that our "host" is not available. A new host is needed. Old website will have to be updated from a backup copy.

School Tours Update: Two groups in November--42 from East Linn Christian Academy and 48 4th graders from Monroe School District. Reports from teachers and Mill docents were very favorable.

Ranger Tom Parsons reports that PA System components are on hand. Installation by outside company expected to be completed by spring.

New Business: There was a discussion of the need to convince the Parks Department that the TMPS was a responsible and reliable group worthy of their support--after some false steps by previous TMPS Board. Jim's letter to Jean Thompson, OPRD Brand Manager, hopefully will set the stage for rebuilding trust (as Ron pointed out).

It was decided that Don and Carl would set a date for a 3rd pressing. Carl will order the apples. Don and Carl will take delivery. Rebecca Bond suggested that December 18, a Monday, was first day of Christmas Vacation and that this might be a good date to consider. Don reported that if we press more cider than we sell, he could sell it in Brownsville and/or he would offer a Hard Cider Workshop at the Mill for which 10 to 20 gallons cider would be required. Rebecca also mentioned that packets of spices or at least a recipe for mulled cider could be an inducement for cider sales. Don and Carl both requested reimbursement for Cider Pressing expenses. Ron will send checks.

The Annual Meeting date was set, finally by email, as March 4, Sunday at 1PM so that President Jim could attend. Patty Linn is to ask Don Ware to reserve the Halsey Community Room for the event, same as last year.

The next Board meeting will be January 23, 6PM at Shedd Fire Station. The meeting was adjourned at about 8PM. Minutes submitted to Board for corrections and additions, 11/19/17.

Donald Lyon