

Thompson's Mill Preservation Society Minutes
September 20, 2016
Shedd Fire Station

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

Board Members present were Spencer Lewis, President; Ron VanOrden, Treasurer; Anita Lewis, Secretary, Don Ware, Larry Thompson, Carl Browning, and Jim Ballard, Board members. Also present were TMPS members Tom Adams, Carolee St.Clair, Bob McCormick and Rebeca Bond, Albany Visitors Association. Attending from OPRD was Tom Parsons, Thompson's Mills State Heritage Site Park Ranger.

The published draft of the February 16, 2016 TMPS Board meeting minutes were read by the Secretary's alternative voice, Carolee St.Clair. With minor a correction,(Marty Kroft corrected to Marty Cross) it was moved and seconded to approve. The motion was passed.

Treasurer's report:

Treasurer reported that he had four checks in-hand totaling \$170.00. A check for \$50.00 for the corporate filing with Oregon Secretary of State, 6/17/2016 was paid out of pocket by the Treasurer as a donation. Expenditures since the last meeting were a \$26.00 check for shared school tour transportation costs, and \$2000.00 for the purchase of Mill garden & orchard fence posts. The Treasurer notified the President that he needs to add the Treasurer as a signatory on the Chase Bank account which the President agreed to do. The Treasurer will get a Debit Card for the Society once he has account access. It was moved, seconded and approved, to accept the Treasurer's report.

OPRD Ranger Tom Parsons summed up the results of the fire suppression system study stating that there are many relatively low cost preventative measures that were recommended, some of which have already been implemented. The report stated the most effective change for the salvation of the mill is a complete sprinkler system. The expected cost for such a system is in the \$900,000.00 range. Part of the reason for the high cost is that the Mill is not just one big open space but lots of smaller areas. It is much more complicated - and costly - to protect multiple smaller areas compared with a large open area of comparable square footage.

Tom pointed out that the reason the Mill is still standing is not only because of the succession of resilient, innovative owners, but also because of pure dumb luck. West of the Rocky Mountains Thompson's Mills is the last of the original historical water powered mills still standing. All of the others were abandoned to fall into disrepair and rot or have been lost to fire. Tom stated the greatest threat to the continued existence of the Mill is fire and even with continued maintenance by ORPD, without the fire suppression sprinkler system the Mill's luck will run out and it will eventually burn down. Tom suggested that if the Society is looking for a goal, raising this money would be a good one.

Larry Thompson talked about Bob's Red Mill having donated \$25 million to a medical research program and that he sees Bob from time to time at breakfast. He suggested Bob could be a source. There was discussion about other sources to help get grants. The President said he would look into seminars on grant writing. It was agreed that groundwork needs to be started now because it will take some time to accomplish.

The Board agreed to leave set aside whatever portion of the \$15,000.00 remains after paying for the fire suppression study to help with further fire suppression studies such as system design.

The apple cider pressing project was discussed with an eye toward starting to prepare for an event in next year's fall season either selling cider pressed on site or selling apples to let the people press their own cider.

Rebeca Bond recommended visiting a site outside Sweethome to see their huge apple press. Don Ware will be in charge of the apple press investigation.

The Society will need to get in touch with Lee publishers to change the name of BMS to TMPS and to also change the name of the contact person. The President will address this issue. The posts the Society purchased for fencing for the Mill orchard and garden are huge and will need to be split. It was suggested to take them back and have them split. Tom said the trip down with that load was horrible and he wasn't willing to make that trip again.

Pending and active projects:

The silos need to be repaired. The lips around the tops of the silos need to be repaired soon or there will be no access to the silo roofs.

The Mill head gates are being replaced now.

Host sites will also be moved out behind the orchards so the RV's will no longer be seen when people drive in.

Discussion was had on how to get more interest for the Mill through the school systems for Linn and Benton counties. A DVD on the tour of the Mill to show to the principals of the schools was suggested as a good tool.

Discussion was had about the many projects that need to be done at the Mill and how to attract volunteers to help out for a day or two a month maybe by offering pizza or some kind food at the end of the day's work, or by offering a selection from the Society's inventory of tee shirts, hats, mugs or other item of their choice.

All these things need to be held for the annual meeting and we need to have another meeting in order to get some speakers for some things the next meeting will be on the 15th November 2016.

It was moved to adjourn, seconded and approved at 8:22PM.

Submitted by: Anita Lewis, TMPS Secretary