



Thompson's Mills Preservation Society

formerly known as the Boston Mill Society

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Thompson's Mills Preservation Society Minutes October 22, 2019

Members Present: Jim Ballard, President; Ron VanOrden, Treasurer; Donald Lyon, Secretary, Larry Thompson, Patty Linn and Carl Browning, Board Members. Guests: Roy Thompson, TMPS member, Tom Parsons, Ranger, Kim Jackson of Albany Visitors Assoc. and Alice Royle of Union Point Custom feeds. This meeting was held in the Miller's House--to be the site of future meetings, too.

1) Meeting was called to order at 6 pm by President Jim Ballard. Minutes of September 17 meeting were considered and approved with one grammatical "error" to be reconciled.

2) Ron VanOrden gave the Treasurer's Report including Financial Summary sheet for January 1-October 19, 2019. Opening balance was \$22,561.67, Income \$14,753.74 and Expenses of \$11,764.67, leaving Cash Balance of \$25,550.74. Treasurer's Report was unanimously accepted.

3) Review of Apple pressing events: Four events were scheduled for the autumn with 3 events successfully completed and one more to go on Oct. 26. The events have been promoted via Democrat Herald calendar page, Albany Visitor's Association, TMPS Mailchimp account and small flyers. Tom has also used Craig's List and other social media, which have attracted OSU students seeking credit for volunteering time. Students have included OSU Girls Basketball team members. It was mentioned that having OSU team representation could be very effective marketing if we could have advance knowledge. All have been very well attended with an average of perhaps 300 visitors each time.

We also want to identify other seasonal activities besides Autumn Cider pressing. Car groups, food truck, hay ride were mentioned. Ron reported that TMPS has 93 members. Discussion of cider press maintenance was brought up including the need for a grease gun dedicated to the press's food grade lubricant. Alice volunteered to provide. (Alice--Carl has already purchased one--thanks). Discussion concluded with plans to have a Cider Committee meeting in Dec. to plan for 2012 season.

Merchandise Sales: Carl reported on a children's book, "The Ghost of the Mill House", written by the woman who lived in the house when it was made part of the State Park system. It is written to a 3rd or 4th grade level. Nineteen copies would cost "approximately \$80" (this correction offered by Ron, minutes originally stated \$190). Carl moved, Don 2nd'ed, to purchase 19 copies for sale in our gift shop. Decision to do so was unanimous.

Kid's T-shirts: Hosts feel that we are missing many sales because we don't have children's sizes. Don will investigate cost for purchase and printing and what sizes were available.

Discussion of what other items might be purchased and sold. Tom suggested that items with an old-time feel that perhaps had been given out in the past be considered. Roy and Larry mentioned pencils and calendars. Refrigerator magnets were mentioned. It was

suggested that we check out Alice's website for some social media connections and other inspiration--unionpoint.com

5. Miller's House Project Review: More discussion is needed here. Ron stated that we need to know the potential use of the house before any estimates of cost could be considered. A professional Grant Writer (receiving a percentage of the grant for services rendered) would be hired. It was also suggested that involving the upper echelons of Park (original minutes said Part) Management in the Miller's House planning would be important since State park employees that are currently supportive might not always be in ("a"--addition by Ron) position to help. Tom will look into ways to do this.

Ranger's Report: Tom reported that \$300,000 was available for the fire suppression system and that the assessment stage had begun. Tom shared images of the projects that he has been involved with at the Mill. Tom also shared some bumper stickers he had made using "makestickers.com." These read TM, Boston, Oregon.

New Business: Larry mentioned a Tangent couple that is interested in being involved, perhaps as docents. Larry is working on organizing an outing to the Mill for Willamette Manor Seniors --he would be the host.

Don suggested that one or two short AV programs be created that would be suitable a) for school groups and b) service clubs such as Rotary. Don would be willing to create such programs.

Alice Royle said that she was willing to host a tour of her Union Point Custom Feeds operation south of Brownsville. Don asked if Alice was willing to serve on the TMPS Board and she agreed. She was quickly nominated and voted in unanimously to serve on the Board of TMPS.

Old Business: Ron suggested that the Board maintain a notebook listing action items that were agreed to at meetings so that we could have a more effective follow-up. Too many items are being agreed to and then never acted upon.

Ron said that it was not too late to create a newsletter for the end of the year. Approximately four articles seemed ideal. Larry will write about his memories of growing up at the Mill. Don will create an article. Deadline to get copy to Ron is November 2.

Next meeting: Dec. 10 at Mill House, 6pm. Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm. Minutes submitted to Members and guests by Donald Lyon on October 28 by email. Please send additions and corrections to Don.