



## Thompson's Mills Preservation Society

*formerly known as the Boston Mill Society*

[tmppsonline.org](http://tmppsonline.org)

### Thompson's Mills Preservation Society Minutes

**April 23, 2019 (revisions of 5.3.19, revisions of 7.7.19 shown in italics)**Members

Present: Jim Ballard, President; Ron VanOrden, Treasurer; Donald Lyon, Secretary, Larry Thompson, Board Member at Large. Carl Browning and Patty Linn, absent. Roy Thompson, TMPS member present. Tom Parsons present. Guest Tammy Baumann, ORPD Visitor Experience Coordinator Valleys Region.

1) Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by President Jim Ballard. Minutes of March meeting were considered. Ron asked for the following corrections: In section 2, change "thank you letter" to "thank you note". In section 4, change "Beth" to "McBeth". Ron asked that Patty's address be removed from minutes for privacy reasons. Ron then moved, Larry 2nd, that minutes, with changes, be accepted. Unanimous approval.

2) Treasurer's Report: Opening balance was \$22,561.67 and Cash balance was \$25,260.12. Ron has changed the TMPS Promo Cards from "Operating Expenses" to "Other" because they are a budgeted expense. Our non-Cash Assets are estimated at \$3013. Commitments are \$18,276.02 with Cash Uncommitted at \$6984.10.

Ron reported that we have 52 paid members. A new feature of his monthly Financial Summary will include number of contacts with email (250), number without email (116) and total contacts (366). This information will be found in the lower left corner of the reports. Treasurer's report was approved unanimously with motion by Don, 2nd by Larry.

3) ORPD's Tammy Baumann was introduced as the most knowledgeable person to help us decide if we wanted to change the TMPS relationship to OPRD to a "Friends" or, more formally, a "Cooperative Association". Tammy had a great deal of information to share and in the end she concluded that we would have to decide which system worked best for us as there were pros and cons to both.

It was agreed that much of the frustrations of the TMPS and of Tom over the past few years had been due to changes in management within OPRD and that this problem was somewhat resolved now but there still was the problem of not being able to get clear and rapid approval of projects. The Cooperative Association (Co-op) model allows for an Annual Plan that is approved by OPRD in advance and allows Ranger Tom and TMPS to carry out projects without frequently having to ask permission. The discussion with Brian McBeth just over a month ago concluded that the Co-op model was the neater way to obtain advance and long term permission for projects. One advantage has to do with vendors. If TMPS was a Co-op, we could hire vendors (perhaps to bring a food service to the Park) in an easy straightforward manner. Currently, OPRD has to be involved in the hiring which means making the opportunity available to all--very time consuming process. Another plus for the Co-op model is that TMPS could sell merchandise rather than offer items for a donation. Currently TMPS is required to have insurance for each event put on, such as cider pressing. It is not clear if this would still be the case under the Co-op model.

The Co-op model would first involve a 5-year agreement, including an Annual Plan (which is meant to be flexible and may be altered throughout the year with OPRD approval). Any activities not listed in the plan must receive approval by the Director before being implemented. We have a copy of the Annual Plan for Shore Acres and there is an OPRD template. The 3rd requirement is an annual financial report. If TMPS did switch to the Co-op model and then was to disband, all assets of TMPS would become property of the OPRD. A positive aspect of the Co-op model is that it is meant to let the Co-op be as independent as possible, able to display and sell merchandise and host events such as a "Farm to Table" fundraiser which Tom reports has been offered to Thompson's Mills. Commercial activity such as a weekly "cruise-in" of classic cars with a food truck sharing profits with TMPS would be allowed. The Co-op model restricts our activities to being within the park--not in a classroom, for example. Tammy pointed out that the Co-op's main job is to provide "interpretive and educational support". She is not overly enthusiastic about the Co-op model for us--she feels we can do everything we want to do under our current model. The problem from TMPS and Tom's perspective is the delay in getting approval and the possibility of not getting approval. She suggests that we ask ourselves, "What does the Park need and what can the Co-op model provide?" In some ways, the Co-op model requires a great deal of organization and less flexibility. Tammy notes that we are a "working Board" and none too young, at that. Important to have a Succession Plan: Although the current Board, Ranger Tom and Tom's bosses Joey and Sarah might function well together such a harmonious coalition might not always be the case and then it would be difficult to change our status. In concluding Tammy reports that the handbook for Co-ops and other material are out of date and not reliable guides. Finally--there are alternatives to the Co-op model. Tammy was thanked for her candid and helpful appraisal.

4. Tom Parsons: Tom reported that the recent flooding was at the same levels as 2012 but there was no structural damage. The Silos work is going ahead with slowdowns due to incompatibility of old and new concrete. Also there is too much iron in the new water system. Mowing seems to be a constant task.

5. Fund Raising: a) silo painting. Jim sent a thank you note to Liz Rapp. regarding her potential \$500 donation. (revised to delete potential) b) He reported that a High School student in Beaverton had produced excellent signs promoting our gift items. Another student project to create a banner is moving more slowly. Don asked for a report on how the T-shirts are selling so that we can plan summer/car show orders will in advance. Jim will provide this info. Apparently tea towels are an often-requested item. Don volunteered to reopen the search for economical "flour sack" tea towels. c) Status of Central Linn Foundation grant application. We missed the deadline which was March 30.

6. Newsletter Update: We have an article about Bucky, one about history of Mill Mechanization. Both Larry and Roy plan to submit articles. Everyone is requested to write at least a short article.

7. New Business: Don will order 50 note cards for thank you notes, etc. Also 500 membership solicitations will be ordered with the "s" in Mills added. Don invited everyone to attend Brownsville's Carriage Me Back historical reenactment on May 4 and 5th. Reservations by calling Linn County Historical Museum at 541 466 3390.

8. Next Meeting will be May 28. 9. Meeting adjourned at 7:46.