



Thompson's Mills Preservation Society

formerly known as the Boston Mill Society

tmpsonline.org

Thompson's Mills Preservation Society Minutes, May 26, 2020

Members Present: Jim Ballard, President; Ron VanOrden, Treasurer; Donald Lyon, Secretary. Board members Patty Linn, Larry Thompson, and Alice Royle. Absent-- Carl Browning. Guests were Tom Parsons, OPRD, Kim Jackson of Albany Visitors Association, Don Powers, Park Host and Gary Jordan, friend of Larry Thompson.

1) Meeting was called to order at 2:39 in the yard of the Mill Keeper's house by President Jim Ballard. Due to social distancing requirements brought on by Corvid 19 pandemic we were seated in a wide circle with disapproving chickens irritated by presence of intruders. Minutes of December 10, 2019 meeting were approved with motion by Patty, 2nd by Larry. Unanimous acceptance. (*corrected date--not February Annual meeting as originally stated*)

2) Ron VanOrden gave the Treasurer's Report including Financial Summary sheet with the following information: Opening balance is \$24,719.70. Cash balance is \$25,526.99. Non cash assets are \$3149.65 est., Commitments are \$25,859.29 with cash uncommitted of \$332.30. TMPS has 62 members at present. Ron is waiting for bill from Albany Visitor's Association for annual ad. Motion by Larry, 2nd by Patty, unanimous-- to approve report.

3) Ranger's Report by Tom Parsons: The State Parks, including Mill, have been closed by state order since March due to Corvid 19 pandemic but Tom and Hosts have been busy. Bad news is that State Park income is way down since funding is largely from lottery and video poker. Purchases that normally occur in restaurants and bars, which are all closed. Tom expects that layoffs will occur and seasonal employees, interns will not be available. Layoffs will occur first at HQ but will trickle down to individual parks. Tom is hoping that his bosses will realize that the maintenance he and hosts are performing is essential to maintaining infrastructure of the old building. One of these essential projects is a weak or rotten floor higher up on structure. Tom can't work on it until he receives safety training for exposed areas--estimated cost \$600. Jim interjected that flume gate was not operating. Tom, Don Powers and Jim discussed situation. Cost of repairs estimated at \$6,300. Discussion included whether TMPS might pay for flume gate and Tom's training.

Not all projects are so complicated, though and Tom caulked and repaired ground floor windows in the Mill Manager's House. The Pioneer Garden has seen more work. Wooden gate, cedar work bench for garden, irrigation lines installed, and some plantings with donated seeds and raspberry plants. Tom observed that eventually the garden will be a major draw to the site. He mentioned that traditionally Mill has been a center of the wider community though this feature diminished during the mill's switch to electricity production.

Park opening date will be determined by state government policies affecting all public places. Currently the public may visit the grounds though the Mill buildings are closed.

4) TMPS 2020 Activities: Jim asked about articles for Newsletter. Ron reported he had more than enough and that summer issue should be ready in about 3 weeks. It was decided that a request would be made in the Newsletter to receive donations that might partly reduce TMPS cost of funding flume gate repairs and Tom's Height Safety class.

Don reported that though Kim and Rebecca Bond of Albany Visitor's Association had provided some suggestions regarding grants we might apply for, he had not pursued them due to general shutdown

of activities, especially of State Park personnel possibly not acting in timely manner. Tom said that he was quite sure that we had the "green light" from his bosses to pursue grants. Don promised to reinvigorate his activities. Ron later sent a link to Native American organizations making grants available which might work well with our plans to develop nature trail through former Kayapuya Mounds.

5) A motion was made by Larry, 2nd by Patty, for TMPS to fund the Flume Gate and Height Safety training. Discussion followed with suggestion by Alice to pay for training but seek donations to help pay for Flume Gate repair. Don moved to amend the earlier motion and this was accepted, unanimously. Ron stated that TMPS would require a copy of the quote for the flume gate repairs to corroborate the \$6300 figure discussed as TMPS cannot approve a "blank check". Tom replied that he would provide the written quote. *(this last sentence was not included in the original minutes).*

6) Cider Days: With the future of the pandemic social distancing and closure requirements still unknown we decide to stick with Cider Pressing dates already set--these can be easily cancelled or changed if necessary. Availability of apples--no changes expected. Don P. suggested that devices, such as sneeze guards, could be made to make the pressing safer.

7) New Business: Jim reported that Brownsville's August 2020 Hands on History event was being rescheduled for 2021. TMPS demonstrates flour making at this annual event.

8) Next Board Meeting is expected to be July 14 at 2:30pm *(changed to 4pm by Jim)* under the trees at the Mill Manager's House--same as today.

9) Meeting Adjourned at 3:39 PM. Most stayed for a tour of the Pioneer Garden and to view the Flume Gate problem. An order of TMPS T-shirts was delivered to Don Powers by Don Lyon.

Minutes submitted to Board members and guests by Don Lyon on May 28, 2020. Corrections indicated by italics were requested by Jim and Ron.