



## Thompson's Mills Preservation Society

formerly known as the Boston Mill Society

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

### Thompson's Mills Preservation Society Minutes, July 14, 2020

Members Present: Jim Ballard, President; Ron VanOrden, Treasurer; Donald Lyon, Secretary. Board members Larry Thompson, Alice Royle, Carl Browning. Absent: Patty Linn. Guests were Tom Parsons, OPRD, Kim Jackson of Albany Visitors Association, and Roy Thompson, TMPS member.

1) Meeting was called to order at 4:05 in the yard of the Mill Keeper's house by President Jim Ballard following COVID 19 distancing guidelines. Minutes of May 26, 2020 meeting were approved with motion by Don, 2nd by Alice. Unanimous acceptance.

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 \$25,022. Non-cash assets are \$3149.65 est., Commitments are \$24,715.31 with cash uncommitted of \$306.69. There was a discussion of invoices and procedures. Motion by Alice, 2nd by Carl, unanimous-- to approve report.

3) Ranger's Report by Tom Parsons: State Parks, including Mill, have been closed by state order since March due to Covid 19 pandemic but Tom and Hosts have been busy. (*Correction--TMSHS grounds are open, mill building is closed to visitors*). 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. Flume gate repairs, funded by TMPS and donations, have been completed. Also funded by TMPS was Tom's safety training to be working in high exposed areas of the mill. OSHA requirements here are very stringent and additional equipment is needed as well as contingency plans in case of an accident. Tom was very satisfied with the training. OPRD's Robert Smith also attended and advised Tom that Park funds were available for this equipment. Work to be done on Mill roofs is to repair flashing and plug leaks.

Chris and Dennis are new hosts. Chris will be maintaining the Garden. Board member Alice had arranged for rotted straw, which was spread on garden beds. Currently the public may visit the grounds though the Mill buildings are closed and no opening dates have been given. Visitor numbers are down but people are still visiting and receiving talks by Tom and hosts.

4) Trail Project: Jim and Don described work so far on the 3/4 mile Trail around the Mill Property. Don will make some corrections to the report he made on this project and Tom will send a file of the map to members and for the website. Don described his efforts in finding grant funding for survey NW corner and some other beginning projects. Several suggestions were made about locating existing surveys so as to avoid the expense and time in redoing. Park's surveyor has been laid off. Those present felt even more important than finding grants was to find partners to work with. A low vision group, Nature for All, was suggested. Don requests that any other possible partners be made known to him. It was suggested that National Federation for the Blind was not a good candidate but Mid-Valley Low Vision Support Group (in Albany) was a possibility. Ellen Wilise (sp?) is contact.

5) Newsletter Review: Jim reports that recent newsletter was very well received and produced about \$1500 in flume gate donations and *offer to contribute articles was made by Kristine Deacon. (this info added by Jim)*

6) Cider Days: With the future of the pandemic social distancing and closure requirements still unknown we conclude that cider pressing may well be cancelled for 2020. As Ron pointed out the purpose was to bring visitors to the mill. Cider sales, themselves, were not particularly profitable.

7) T-shirt Sales: Tom thought it was possible to offer T-shirts and other such products for sale with an outdoor display under clear plastic (swallows). Offering one free t-shirt to new hosts was discussed. Don made motion to offer one free T-shirt to each new host. 2nd by Larry. Unanimous.

8) New Business: Tom discussed the factors around reopening. There is a concern that OPRD is not actively promoting the Mill. It is clear that the Mill is still quite unknown. Discussion centered on ways to promote including writing letters, contacting publications, authors, organizations that do not mention the Mill. Roy reported a recent Oregon Guidebook that failed to include Mill. It was suggested that all TMPS members and friends take on the project of posting information, contacting writers, publications, etc. about existence and importance of the Mill.

9) Next Board Meeting is expected to be September 15. Time and place to be decided.

10) Meeting Adjourned at 5:35 PM. Most stayed for a tour of the Pioneer Garden. Larry had homegrown blueberries and plums for all who wished them. Minutes submitted to Board members and guests by Don Lyon on July 15, 2020. *(Jim made several changes on 7.16.20 that are indicated by italics or were minor typos. Ron made two grammatical corrections at Sept. meeting).*