



Thompson's Mills Preservation Society

formerly known as the Boston Mill Society

tmpsonline.org

Thompson's Mills Preservation Society Minutes, September 24, 2020

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

1) Meeting was called to order at 2:37 in the Mill Mgr.'s house by President Jim Ballard following COVID 19 distancing guidelines. Minutes of July 14, 2020 meeting were approved with two grammatical corrections by Ron. Motion to approve by Ron, 2nd by Alice. Unanimous acceptance. Guest Jason Elkins was introduced.

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 \$20,208. Non-cash assets are \$2620.65 est., Commitments are \$17,236.31 with cash uncommitted of \$3,571.69. TMPS has 235 mailing addresses, 406 email addresses (496 is the total mail list). Donations produced more than any other activity. Don moved, Larry 2nd'ed, unanimous approval to accept report.

3) Ranger's Report by Tom Parsons: Garden is producing well. Tom expects to spend about \$150 for Fava-bean seeds to plant as cover crop and for some irrigation supplies for the garden. The orchard is producing well--23 varieties of apples. *Larry moved, Alice 2nd'ed, unanimous vote to approve \$150 expenditure for Garden cover crop of fava beans, irrigation and fence supplies. (Clarification made by Jim)*

4) Old business: Park funds are available to buy OSHA mandated equipment for upper floor work on Mill. Regarding The Trail--Phase One trail route is priority. Tom feels this is the most important project undertaken in his ten years at the Mill. Tom is sending everyone a copy of the map showing the 3 phases. A second full-time Ranger will be coming on board. Regarding Grants--Don explained his frustration in not finding viable grant opportunities and asked Kim to keep looking as he is better positioned to hear about grants. He reminded us that April would be the start of new grant cycle. Don reminded everyone of Kim's previous suggestion that we all solicit letters from partners, such as nearby communities and businesses that they are very interested in our receiving grants so as to proceed with Trail and other projects.

5) Cider Days: Tom and Don briefly discussed how to have a safe cider pressing. Tom said Hosts can do much of the setting up and overseeing safe cider pressing with people reserving a slot of time to press their own apples. They would pay a rental fee and pay for jugs. Tom thought reservations would have to be handled via telephone rather than *Sign-Up Genius*. They agreed to coordinate among themselves.

6) Gift Shop: Chicken and Duck food sales probably do not quite cover expenses--total is about \$370 per year. General donations total from 2 to more than \$3,000 per year. Ron explained his concern that expenses should be more than donations received or TMPS may have to give excess to OPRD. One solution is that it be made clear that donations are being made to TMPS rather than to the Park. Use of Friends designation is to be avoided, too. *OPRD has a possible proposal to allow TMPS to collect all funds from the general donation box that is inside the Mill as well as money taken in from feed sales for the chickens and ducks. TMPS and OPRD are to discuss how such an arrangement might work. (this clarification requested by Jim)*

No Dinks Graphics in Albany was recommended for t-shirts and mugs--Don agreed to get some quotes for Jim.

7) New Business: Larry described his successful efforts to solicit two new memberships and donations totaling \$30 and \$200, which were turned over to Ron. He also mentioned a proposed visit to local farmer Pat Manning where he would ask about equipment and operator to grade Phase One of The Trail.

Tom and Jason described the OPRD changes that result in the Mill now being administered from Lukimute State Park--a move that will simplify many of Tom's efforts.

8) Next Board Meeting is expected to be November 12 at 2:30.

9) Meeting Adjourned at 3:43 PM. Most stayed for a tour of garden and orchard. Our hosts have collected vegetables for the Brownsville Food Bank. Minutes submitted to Board members and guests by Don Lyon on September 28. Two clarifications shown in italics made by Jim and added to minutes 10.4.20.