**Thompson's Mills Preservation Society Minutes, May 16, 2023**

Convened at the Mill. Present were Rebecca Martin, President; Jeff Brown, Vice President; Don Lyon, Secretary and Treasurer; Board Members Larry Thompson, Alice Royle and Steve Thoma. Carl Browning and Ron Van Orden were absent. Also present were Society Members Roy Thompson and Bob McCormick, OPRD District Manager Sarah Steele, Park Manager Scott Youngblood and Volunteer Coordinator Carlie Childs. Guests were Rich Klocz and Jason Bloomfield.

1) Meeting was called to order at 6:07PM. 2) Minutes were unanimously approved after motion by Jeff. 3) Don gave the Treasurer's Report for March and April, stating that starting balance was $32,557.96, ending balance was $33,435.15. Income was $1856 and expenses were $1808.08. Don listed the General Admin expenses, equipment and advertising expense. Don explained that accounting expenses were expected to rise as Quick Books was no longer being supported on line. He and Mike Humphreys were looking at TechSoup organization as a means to continuing access to Quick Books at lowest possible price. Don also reported that a check to TMPS for $200 from a Thompson relative, dated 2018 had been found with Jim Ballard's papers. Larry agreed to contact the maker to see if she was willing to reissue the check. Jeff moved to accept the Treasurer's report, unanimous agreement.

4) OPRD Report in lieu of Ranger's Report by Sarah Steele. Referring to the special meeting at Albany Library between OPRD and TMPS, Sarah described the evident long-term breakdown of trust and communication between OPRD and TMPS. She stated that it would take some time to rebuild. Meanwhile TMPS and OPRD were operating without any formal agreement and until appropriate agreements could be worked out, TMPS was prohibited from offering gift shop items at the mill and that the inventory would have to be removed right away. No donations could be accepted on Park property. An online gift shop was ok. OPRD team presented a chart identifying the different types of relationships that might be applied for by TMPS and agreed with by OPRD. OPRD needed to identify the risks involved in those different relationships--no one relationship would cover all that TMPS was doing. Special Use Permits (SUP) and Memos of Understanding (MOU) seem to fit TMPS activities the best. For example, TMPS currently uses a SUP to hold the cider pressings.

Sarah explained that apparently in the past TMPS had received from OPRD Rangers incomplete information about activities that TMPS might work on. That perhaps permission had been given that the Ranger was not authorized to give. The Ranger did not know all the details, she said. It was also stated that TMPS had not been communicating adequately with the Park Manager, Scott Youngblood. A clean slate was needed; hence the requirement that the Gift Shop was to be shut down until proper permission was obtained. Cider activities might continue with the proper SUP and that one SUP might suffice for several events. Sarah also stated that if extra staff was needed for an event that TMPS might have to bear the cost. Even hosts would probably not be allowed to help. Where possible, OPRD would help? Hard to know where TMPS stands here. Don suggested using the Friends Group model but such models were not being accepted at this time.

It was suggested that TMPS make a list of all the activities that it wanted to do and that Scott and Carlie could advise as to proper forms to use. Sarah also plans on sending information to aid this process. Bob pointed out that in contrast to examples given by OPRD, all TMPS activities were designed to encourage visitation rather than to use the Mill to make a profit. Sarah pointed out that there was miscommunication because OPRD only knew what TMPS was doing by reading the minutes. Better communication with Scott was needed. It was mentioned that SUP's needed to be presented at least 90 days in advance. It was asked if gift shop items might be presented at Cider pressings--yes if that activity listed in SUP. Jeff and Steve plan to clear out the Gift Shop on May 17. Items will be stored in Don's shed in Brownsville.

5) President’s report on obtaining Tom Adam's Flume Gate book for sale. Rebecca said she was waiting for Tom to return from travels. Don asked Rebecca to follow up with Tom by email, to answer his concerns about how the book will be marketed, so that TMPS could proceed to obtain more copies. Rebecca will do so.

6. Action Committee Report: Don said that Jeff would take over the Webmaster role and liaison with Steve Brenner to update website. Jeff described the TMPS Face book page and his efforts to keep the site in the public eye. All are asked to help with posts, likes, images, etc, especially while Jeff is away from May 21-mid July. Don shared the rough draft TMPS brochure. Steve, Jeff and Alice have provided suggestions, corrections and the brochure will be printed using the $700 LCCC grant. Board members may offer suggestions if they wish. Don moved and the Board agree to go ahead with the printing.

7. Cider Committee: Don reported that he would be unable to participate in the September 2 cider event at the Mill and in light of the changes in TMPS status suggested cancelling the September 2 event. All agreed.

8. Membership Committee--no news. 8a--Larry reported that he found a CD for the $20,000 bequest paying 5.2% over two years. He will instruct his broker to identify the best investment and Don will make the purchase. Don moved that this be done, all accepted. 9. School Groups--no new report and perhaps this activity was no longer to be done by TMPS. 10. New Business--seems we are in hiatus. 11. Next board meeting is July 11 at 6pm. Rebecca will request use of Mill for this meeting. 12. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm. Minutes emailed 5.17.23 by Don Lyon. Please send corrections, addition, etc.