

The Bull Run OBSERVER

DATE 3-22-00

Beverley Mill restoration is "in the mill"

\$300,000 grant in wings; environmental statement okayed; volunteers asked

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Work to begin restoring Beverley Mill is just around the corner. The group known as Turn the Mill Around Campaign (TTMAC) has received a \$300,000 grant, the necessary environmental impact statement approval and Prince William County has been designated to administer the grant. The TEA-21 (transportation enhancement) grant is coming to the mill restoration group from the state via federal funding.

Grant funding came with strings attached-including a match of \$75,000. According to TTMAC officials, this is being accomplished through outright donations of money, sales of circa 1940 Beverley Mill bags and the promise of in-kind services to be contributed by helpful construction-related businesses and other volunteers.

The county government was chosen to administer the grant since TTMAC is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt operating foundation. After four months of negotiation, this was accomplished on March 14. Until this three-way contract among the county, TTMAC and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is finalized, TTMAC is limited to doing work that will not be funded under the TEA-21 grant.

The Federal Highway Administration, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and VDOT have approved the environmental impact statement. TTMAC officials said gaining this approval required several months of hard work. A survey of the 4.8 acres of land attached to the mill, another component of the TEA-21 process, has been completed.

This turned out to be a very difficult process because there had not been a survey since Interstate

66 was built, and Broad Run stream and the railroad rerouted. Dewberry & Davis performed this task and donated \$20,550.43 of the cost to TTMAC. The survey shows that the Beverley Mill parcel is almost evenly divided between Prince William and Fauquier Counties.

Four Eagle Scouts, Adam Buhl of Troop 1366, Reid Howard of Troop 884, Greg Tyson of Troop 889 and Asher Grady of Troop 924, are planning upcoming projects to continue the clean-up of the roadside leading to the mill, the mill pond and the head race. These projects will build on the Eagle Scout projects of Joe Liddle of Troop 924, Douglas McPhearson and Jamie Staunton, both of Troop 1366, and Michael Dellinger of Troop 884.

Soon the process of cleaning out the mill, designing the engineer

specs and stabilizing the mill walls will begin. However, this will have to be done at the pace and in the manner that the VDOT requirements mandate-in other words much slower than the restoration group wishes.

TTMAC will be looking for volunteers to sort and move the debris brought out of the mill by a professional company. If you can help, call TTMAC at 703-753-3273 and leave your name and telephone

number. These volunteer hours will be considered an in-kind service donation and can be part of the 20% match the group must make.

The goal of TTMAC is to open a safe, interpretive site for all to enjoy. Until that time the restoration group asks that people not trespass on the property. Norfolk Southern Railroad security officers are patrolling the tracks by the mill and have fined several people for trespassing. TTMAC officials say it is very dan-

gerous to walk on the tracks as it is unbelievable how quiet the trains can be as they come around some of the turns. Empty trains make very little noise. In addition, the I-66 traffic noise makes the trains hard to hear. Walking on railroad tracks is considered criminal trespass, and there is the potential for a sad accident. The group asks that residents wait for the mill to be stabilized and then visit for a free and safe entree to its environs.