

Steven D. Reece

From: Steven D. Reece <sdreece@matzevah.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 5, 2017 20:02
To: Hank Mishkoff
Subject: Re: The termination of the Przerosl project

Dear Hank,

Thank you for your kind words and for your encouragement. I greatly appreciate it.

I see your heart and hear your passion. You are steadfast and committed. Stay the course.

I appreciate your concern for how I feel. It is difficult certainly but I am not focused on that. I am really focused on doing what I need to do in order to redeem the situation and move things forward.

I am learning patience and perseverance in the work of restoration. Restoration is a process of transformation. It takes time as you know, so don't grow weary as we seek a way forward.

Respectfully,

Steven

On Mar 5, 2017 7:27 PM, "Hank Mishkoff" <Hank@webfeats.com> wrote:

And a note just to you without the copy list: I get the feeling that you think you're caught in the middle of something with which you'd rather not be involved, and I also get the feeling that you're probably right. I know that it must be frustrating to be trying to do such good work and then find that you're caught between Polish bureaucrats and demanding families. So I just wanted to take a second to let you know how much I appreciate what you're doing. I've been trying to get the cemetery restored for 20 years without noticeable success, and if it does happen this time it will be almost entirely due to your efforts and tenacity. Frankly, whether or not this works out, I wanted to make sure you knew how grateful I am for everything you're doing, and for the hope that you've rekindled within me. Thank you!

On Sun, Mar 5, 2017 at 6:20 PM, Hank Mishkoff <Hank@webfeats.com> wrote:

That's great, I think I'm as excited about your meeting with Jan Wiktor as I am about your meeting with FODZ, I think he brings a unique perspective and an enormous amount of enthusiasm to the project. I'm very much looking forward to hearing about both of your meetings. Thanks for keeping us up to date.

On Sun, Mar 5, 2017 at 6:17 PM, Steven D. Reece <sdreece@matzevah.org> wrote:

Dear Hank,

I understand and we will work with you and FODZ in order to assist you and your family realize this project.

Yes, I am in contact with Jan Wiktor and I will be meeting with him.

Respectfully,

Steven

On Mar 5, 2017 3:11 PM, "Hank Mishkoff" <Hank@webfeats.com> wrote:

I think that's great news, thanks for letting us know. It's more than a little puzzling, I don't quite understand what an "amenable solution" would be because I don't think that Hatte and I have any issues, other than a lack of understanding of exactly what's going on. But I guess we'll learn more about that after your meeting with FODZ.

BTW: I don't know if you and Jan Wiktor have been corresponding, will you be able to meet with him the weekend that you arrive in Warsaw?

On Sun, Mar 5, 2017 at 1:30 PM, Steven D. Reece <sdreece@matzevah.org> wrote:

Dear Hank,

Our board met yesterday and determined not to table the Przerosl project. We wish to proceed with the project and pursue an amenable solution to all parties involved.

I will be in Poland next week and I have arranged a meeting with FODZ on Monday morning, 13 March at 10:00 AM.

I will let you know the outcome of our meeting as soon as I am able.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 4, 2017, at 14:11, Hank Mishkoff <Hank@webfeats.com> wrote:

Does that mean that you'll go ahead and set up Steven's meeting with the Mayor in Przerosl in a couple of weeks? If, so, that's the best news I've heard in a LONG time! Please confirm ASAP, I'm hoping we can get a definite OK to Steven before he meets with his board and pulls the plug on the project. THANK YOU!!!

On Sat, Mar 4, 2017 at 12:43 PM, Monika Krawczyk <monika.krawczyk@adwokatura.pl> wrote:

Dear Hank,

I think it is a misunderstanding. FODZ is dedicated to restoration of the cemetery in Przerosl, as well as all other places.

Monika Krawczyk

-----Wiadomość oryginalna-----

Od: Hank Mishkoff [mailto:Hank@WebFeats.com]

Wysłano: 04 March 2017 18:19

Do: monika.krawczyk@adwokatura.pl; Monika.Krawczyk@fodz.pl

DW: sdreece@matzevah.org; blejerh@gmail.com; Schudrich@aol.com;

schudrich@gmail.com

Temat: The termination of the Przerosl project

Monika: Steven has relayed to me the distressing news that you have refused to set up a meeting for him with the mayor of Przerosl, and that as a result

he is recommending to his board that the project be put on hold. I've been working on this project for nearly 20 years, I'm 67 years old, I have heart problems, I've watched the project die and come back to life multiple times, hundreds of my relatives are sick of me asking them for donations over and over again. As I told Steven, if this project gets put on hold I simply can't bear to be associated with it anymore, it would just be too frustrating.

I'm not looking forward to getting in touch with all of my relatives to tell them that, once again, all of their efforts have been in vain and the final resting place of their ancestors will not be restored to the dignity that it deserves. Not only will that destroy the last ounce of credibility I have with them, I can't imagine how much time I'll have to spend trying to figure out how to refund their donations, some of which I'll likely have to restore out of my own pocket. And Hatte has even begun to plan a "roots" trip to lead a group of family members to family-related sites in Poland -- I don't want to speak for Hatte, but I can't imagine that she's looking forward to telling her relatives that the trip is off.

The worst part of all this is that I have no idea why it happened. Steven tells me that you took your action because I requested that the funds held for the project by the US Commission be released to me so that I could turn them over to him. You and Steven were both copied on all of my communications with the Commission, but to refresh your memory, here's what I asked them:

"Since the Matzevah Foundation is a 501(c)(3), will you be able to transfer the funds directly to them? If not, perhaps you could transfer the funds to FODZ, as per our original understanding."

And the Commission replied:

"The Commission can transfer funds for project work performed or under an agreement that requires funding for work to be done. The funds can remain reserved until that time."

In other words, nothing has changed: The funds that were intended to be transferred to FODZ for distribution to the project will be transferred to FODZ for distribution to the project.

My family and I do not care who does the work, we only want it done. It is heartbreaking to watch the project die, apparently as the result of some kind of incomprehensible jurisdictional squabble.

Anyway, I'm not entirely sure of exactly why I'm writing to you, because Steven's board has probably already voted to delay the project -- and once that happens, as far as I'm concerned, the project is effectively dead. I just can't tell you how incredibly sad I am about the death of such a worthwhile a project to which I have devoted significant chunks of the last two decades of my life.

[I'm copying Rabbi Schudrich because I've kept him up-to-date about the project since its inception. However, I have not communicated with him about the most recent iteration of the project, which I now suspect was a grave oversight on my part, as he might have been able to use his good offices to help keep the project on track. So it goes.]

Hank Mishkoff

Hank@WebFeats.com