

Motor Mill Foundation
Minutes
August 20, 2013

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, August 20, 2013. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Other board members present were Jon deNeui, Les Klink, Lee Lenth, Tom Gifford, Ellen Collins, Chuck Morine, and Larry Stone. Clayton County Conservation Board naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Fred Stroschein was a guest.

MINUTES

Hearing no additions or corrections, Nikolai accepted the minutes of the July 16 meeting as printed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chuck Morine submitted the following report:

Motor Mill Foundation

July 16, 2013 - beginning balance \$6,306.90

Receipts

July 23 merchandise 77.00

Donations 192.00

August 12

Merchandise 42.00

Donations 187.00

Total receipts \$498.00

Expenses

August 12 Allam Clayton Elec \$36.06

Total expenses \$36.06

August 20, 2013 balance \$7,125.08

CONSERVATION RESERVE FUND

July 17, 2013 (negative) balance (\$70,416.10)

Expenses – postage for Milling Around \$72.38

August 20, 2013 (negative) balance (\$70,488.48)

CAPITAL FUND

July 16, 2013 balance carried forward	\$8,198.30
Deposits	
Ed Engelhardt in memory of Virginia Meyer	\$10
Schwab Charitable Fund	\$50
Total deposits	\$60
August 20, 2013 balance forward	\$8,258.30

MOTOR MILL BRIDGE

Engelhardt and deNeui have discussed a 3-year plan for the foundation to repay the County Conservation Board for the bridge construction. The details have not been finalized.

MOTOR MILL TRAIL

Nothing new to report.

STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN

Funds still continue to come in slowly.

PROMOTING MOTOR MILL

Stone has had two requests for group tours. Stone and Lenth agreed to provide a tour for a Monona garden club on August 22. Collins and Nikolai will arrange an early September tour date for a McGregor church group.

Morine urged the board to open the Mill on Saturday mornings, as well as in the afternoon. He has had a lot of visitors whenever he's been at Motor in the morning.

BOARD MEMBERS & TOUR GUIDES

Nikolai reported that Kent Werges has agreed to be a tour guide. Lenth said Gary and Nancy Thurn will help as guides.

BUSINESS PLAN

Engelhardt and Nikolai are continuing to work on the business plan drafted by Nikolai.

ART/HISTORY ON WEBSITE

Stone and Engelhardt will prepare a press release to solicit photos to tell "stories in stone" on the website.

SUMMER EVENTS

Nikolai, deNeui, and Klink will have the Motor Mill float in the Marquette/McGregor Labor Day parade on August 31.

The board discussed ways to have more dialogue with students at Plagman's Barn on Friday, Sept. 20, which is the school day.

DAVE METZ

Nikolai will invite Dave Metz from the Pine Creek Mill to come September 4 to tour Motor and give us his interpretation of what machinery might have been used in the Mill.

MOTOR MILL MEMORIES

Nikolai asked board members to continue to circulate DVD copies of the June 11 Motor Mill Memories session.

He will contact Jeanette Muller to see if she has recordings of earlier history sessions.

Nikolai also has contacted the editors of the Guttenberg and Elkader newspapers to determine if they'd be willing to print regular "Stores in Stone" columns about Motor Mill.

He asked Jean Marie Hall and Stone to prepare a sample column, perhaps using the transcript from the 2004 Motor Mill Memories session.

INTERPRETIVE PLAN REVIEW

Nikolai asked board members to review the interpretive plan for a discussion at the September meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Harkrader proposed holding the Clayton County Conservation Board's annual "Holiday Walk" at Motor Mill. The theme would be "Over the River and Through the Woods." The board concurred, and agreed on the date of Thursday, Nov. 14.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

TURKEY RIVER RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR

deNeui reported the following items from the recent (date?) TRRC meeting:

The 2014 budget was approved.

Clermont is promoting the community as the beginning of the Turkey River trails.

Elgin businesses have seen more traffic as they try to blend with the trail.

The Clayton County Board of Supervisors continues to be unenthusiastic about the trail.

Fund raising events include an August 4 "Paddle-Pedal-Putt" biking, canoeing, golfing triathlon, and a golf tournament at the Elkader and Valley courses on Sept. 28-29.

TRRC will apply for a CAT grant in January.

TRRC is considering buying advertising with Mediacom.

Gifford reported that the Elkader whitewater course has received its stream construction permit from the Corps of Engineers, and should have the Iowa DNR permit soon. All the permits have been approved for the riverbank work, and that portion of the project is out for bids. All the construction should be completed this year.

Nikolai has given information about the importance of tourism to Cindy Werges at the Clayton County Farm Bureau office, and asked her to distribute it to Farm Bureau board members. The hope is to ease the group's apparent opposition to trails in the county.

Nikolai also has urged Gary Goyette of Guttenberg to market his historical architecture expertise locally as a way to promote and protect our historical resources.

FACILITIES

deNeui reported that the windows are ready to be installed in the Cooperage. Morine and Steve Beaumont have patched most of the holes in the second floor of the Mill.

deNeui is compiling plans and costs for 2014 projects, which might include roofing for the Cooperage and Ice House, electrical service, basement excavation, and lights in the Mill.

Stone offered a large basswood log that could be sawn into boards for use as handrails.

Lenth has obtained a copy of "Steamboating on the Upper Mississippi," by William Peterson. The book has references to John Thompson and the milling business.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 17, at Osborne.

ADJOURNMENT

Nikolai adjourned the meeting about 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry A. Stone, secretary