

Motor Mill Foundation
Minutes
December 17, 2013

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, December 17, 2013. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Other board members present were Ellen Collins, Jon deNeui, Tom Gifford, Les Klink, and Larry Stone. Clayton County Conservation Board naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

MINUTES

Nikolai accepted the minutes of the October meeting as printed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Although he was recovering from surgery and unable to attend, Chuck Morine submitted the following report:

Motor Mill Foundation

Oct. 15 - beginning balance \$9,344.35

Receipts

Nov. 13 sale of Stone photo \$25

Nov. 15 donations \$13

Nov. 15 Holiday Walk donations \$169

Total receipts \$207

Expenses

Oct. 24 Nikolai parade expenses \$58.85

Nov. 14 Allam Clayton Elec \$34.03

Dec. 13 Allam Clayton Elec \$39.47

Total expenses \$132.35

Dec. 17, 2013 balance \$9,419.00

CONSERVATION RESERVE FUND

Oct. 15, 2013 (negative) balance (\$70,330.21)

DEPOSITS

Iowa Room – Big Blue Sky T-shirts \$90

EXPENSES

Hackett's Porta Potti, Holiday Walk \$70

Dec. 17, 2013 balance forward (\$70,310.21)

CAPITAL FUND

Dec. 17, 2013 balance carried forward \$8,758.30

DEPOSITS

Edgewood Locker \$100

Neil & Eleanor Krieg, IMO Roger Wright \$20

Clayton CO. Insurance Agents \$200

Bud & Myra Voss IMO, Roger Wright \$25

Stone photos \$355

James Garaghty \$100

Douglas Klink \$400

Total deposits \$1,200

Dec. 17, 2013 balance forward \$9,958.30

MOTOR MILL TRAIL

The preliminary survey is being completed.

STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN

Funds continue to come in slowly. Morine suggested in an email that the capital campaign be closed and the money moved into the Clayton County Conservation Board's Conservation Reserve Fund. Collins moved to make that change. deNeui seconded. During subsequent discussion, several members questioned whether closing the capital campaign account might be confusing to donors. The board agreed that more information and discussion is needed. There was no further action.

Mary Witt has offered to donate to the Foundation a framed, signed and numbered silkscreen print of Motor Mill and the 1899 bridge by the late Wendell Mohr. The print could be used as a fundraiser. deNeui moved to accept the gift. Gifford seconded. Carried. During the discussion, members wondered whether it would be possible to display the print at Osborne, rather than sell it. Stone agreed to ask Mary Witt.

The board also discussed whether to attempt to use PayPal to accept donations and sell merchandise on the website. There were questions about the viability of this method of raising funds, and the implications for a 501(c) 3 organization. The board took no action.

PROMOTE MOTOR MILL

Nikolai may have an opportunity to speak to the Clayton County Farm Bureau board after the holidays.

Harkrader suggested that the Volga women's club might be interested in a program.

BOARD MEMBERS & TOUR GUIDES

Nikolai has approached several people about being on the board, but has found no one willing to make the commitment. He urged other board members to continue to seek volunteers.

BUSINESS PLAN

Nikolai is continuing to work on the business plan. He would like to know whether flour from Motor Mill was marketed under a brand name.

ART/HISTORY ON WEBSITE

The board discussed ways to promote Motor Mill by posting artwork on the website. Harkrader agreed to talk with Engelhardt about mentioning the idea on his radio program, and asking people to submit digital photos of Motor Mill paintings or other art they might have.

Nikolai urged board members to bring ideas to the January meeting.

INTERPRETIVE PLAN REVIEW

Nikolai has been in touch with Dave Metz about using Metz's drawings as part of Motor's interpretive programs.

Angi Reid, a former Clayton County naturalist who works for Silos and Smokestacks, may be able to help with an interpretive plan for Motor.

Collins showed examples of several types of interpretive signs that could be used at Motor. Harkrader noted that there are many grants available for signs.

Collins said Roger Thomas is researching how to put an "app" on a sign to allow smart phone users to access interpretive information.

HOLIDAY WALK

Harkrader reported that 67 people attended the November 14 Holiday Walk at Motor. The event was deemed a success.

ADMISSION CHARGE?

Nikolai suggested that there should be an admission charge for tours of Motor Mill. He noted the need to raise funds, and the growing popularity of the site. There were 1473 registered visitors in 2013, with the likelihood that many more did not sign the guest book.

Collins pointed out that the George Maier Museum charges \$5. (Betty Buchholz reported later that the admission charge at the Carter House Museum is \$4.00 for adults, \$3.00 for seniors, and \$2.00 for children under 12.)

Klink opposed the idea, noting that many visitors already make a donation. He and other board members feared that a number of people might choose not to visit if they were asked to pay.

Nikolai noted that the Motor Mill Foundation plans to have more detailed interpretive displays to explain the milling operation. Stone suggested that we at least wait until those displays are in place before instituting an admission charge.

Nikolai agreed to research what the admission fee policies are at Pine Creek Mill and perhaps other sites.

OLD BUSINESS

Collins reiterated her suggestion that the Foundation needs a library of reference materials. Nikolai has been in touch with a firm that will search for titles recommended by Dave Metz.

Tom Gifford offered to donate a small bookcase to store reference books.

Collins will discuss the matter with Engelhardt to see if there is a suitable place at Osborne for the library.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES

deNeui will reopen his discussion with V J Engineering about the firm doing a pro bono design of a flood protection dike at Motor.

deNeui will discuss with Engelhardt and County Engineer Rafe Koopman the possibility of the Foundation obtaining an unused conveyor from the secondary roads department to help in cleaning silt from the Mill basement.

COMMUNICATIONS

Nikolai is up to date with thank-you letters and with plaques to post on a board of donors to the bridge projects.

NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, at the Osborne Conservation Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Nikolai adjourned the meeting about 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry A. Stone, secretary