

Motor Mill Foundation
Minutes
January 28, 2014

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, January 28, 2014. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Other board members present were Ellen Collins, Jon deNeui, Betty Buchholz, Chuck Morine, Lee Lenth, and Larry Stone. Clayton County Conservation Board director Tim Engelhardt and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Angi Reid of Silos and Smokestacks was a guest.

MINUTES

Collins moved to accept the minutes of the December 17 meeting as distributed. deNeui seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chuck Morine submitted the following summary report for 2013:

Combined accounts

Beginning balance	\$7,328.50
Receipts	\$19,260.77
Expenses	\$4,378.46
Ending balance	\$22,210.81

Conservation Board account

Beginning balance	\$113.32
Receipts	\$13,717.76
Expenses	\$885.12
Ending balance	\$12,945.96

Central State Bank account

Beginning balance	\$7,215.18
Receipts	\$5,543.01
Expenses	\$4,493.34
Ending balance	\$9,264.85

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

Dec. 17 beginning balance		\$9,419.00
No receipts		
Expenses		
Reimburse Nikolai for name plates		\$154.15
Allam Clayton Elec		\$40.53
Total expenses		\$194.68
Jan. 28, 2014 balance		\$9,224.32
CONSERVATION RESERVE		
Dec. 31, 2013 balance brought forward (negative balance)		(\$70,240.21)
Jan. 21, 2014 balance carried forward (negative balance)		(\$70,240.21)
CAPITAL FUND		
Receipts		
Iowa Room	\$60	
Menken	\$100	
Menken	\$100	
Sayre	\$100	
Eldeen	\$50	
Total receipts	\$410	
Jan. 21, 2014 balance		\$10,368.30

INTERPRETIVE PLAN

Angi Reid, Education and Interpretation Manager for Silos and Smokestacks, gave a presentation with suggestions for developing an interpretive plan for the Motor Mill Historic Site.

Reid helped the group prepare a list of desired outcomes from interpretive efforts. Some included: displays, sales of Motor merchandise, hands-on activities, living history tours, a garden with crops that were processed at the Mill, and a curriculum for educational activities.

Some indicators of success might include attracting more visitors and volunteers, providing a richer experience for the visitors, and receiving more donations.

Reid suggested focusing on four themes: agriculture, people, land, and architecture. Stone and Lenth agreed to serve on a committee with Reid to expand on the themes and suggest areas of emphasis.

Specific methods that might be used could include exhibits and kiosks, off-site programs, school visits, historical re-enactments, a historical camps of kids, better use of Facebook and the Motor Mill website, and retelling of personal stories.

The board chose outdoor exhibits, hands-on activities, historical reenactments, and first-person histories as projects that could be initiated this year.

The board concurred with Reid's suggestion to visit several other mills, especially the Wapsipinicon Mill at Independence. The group also briefly discussed the concept of an annual fund raising event, such as a pancake breakfast.

INTERN GRANT

Reid and Engelhardt explained a Silos and Smokestacks grant that could pay up \$2,100 to help hire a college student as an intern to work with Mill tours and help develop a volunteer manual to be used by tour guides. The Foundation would need to contribute a \$900 match.

Collins moved to authorize Engelhardt to apply for the grant. Lenth seconded. Carried.

MOTOR MILL TRAIL

Engelhardt is continuing to work with the Iowa DOT to complete the required steps in trail planning, including a preliminary survey, design and engineering, landowner meetings and right-of-way issues, archeological surveys, and a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. IDOT officials have said the project could be ready for bids in 2015, if the process goes smoothly.

STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN

Funds continue to come in slowly. The board discussed the idea of using PayPal to give potential donors an easy way to contribute via the website. Harkrader reported that PayPal fees are 2.98%, plus 30 cents pre transaction. Morine noted that we do not have to collect sales tax, so that is not an issue. The board took no action at this time.

PROMOTE MOTOR MILL

Nikolai has arranged to speak to the Volga Study Club on March 4, and to a Clayton County Farm Bureau group on April 3. Stone and/or Nikolai will speak to the Monona library "bookworms" on March 4.

SCENIC BYWAY CARDS

Collins moved to contribute \$25 to the River Bluffs Scenic Byway to help pay for promotional cards. deNeui seconded. Carried.

CLAYTON COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The Clayton County Historic Preservation Commission held a public meeting on January 17 where they approved the Motor Mill application to amend the National Registry District. The application was prepared by Marlys Svendsen.

TURKEY RIVER RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR

The Clayton County Board of Supervisors will meet at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 29, to consider whether to contribute any money to the Turkey River Recreational Corridor. Nikolai and Engelhardt urged board members to attend if possible.

LIABILITY INSURANCE

Stone moved to pay Gifford Insurance \$251 for the annual premium for the board's \$1 million liability insurance policy. deNeui seconded. Carried.

NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18, at the Osborne Conservation Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Collins moved to adjourn the meeting at 9 p.m. deNeui seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry A. Stone, secretary