

## MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION

### Minutes

August 19, 2014

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, August 19. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order about 7 p.m. Other board members present were Jon deNeui, Betty Buchholz, Chuck Morine, Lee Lenth, Les Klink, and Larry Stone. Ellen Collins arrived about 7:15. Clayton County Conservation Board director Tim Engelhardt and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Dawn Austin, president of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum in Burr Oak, was a guest.

### MINUTES

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the July 15 meeting as revised and distributed. Buchholz seconded. Carried.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

July 15 beginning balance	\$8,562.29
Receipts	
July 21 – donations	\$170.00
Merchandise sales	\$15.00
Donations	\$57.00
Merchandise sales	\$55.00
August 4 – donations	\$74.00
Donations – Clayton Co Fair	\$13.70
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$384.70</b>
Expenses	
July 28 – SignsNFrames	\$303.02
August 8 – Heritage Printing, envelopes	\$216.88
August 9 - Allam-Clayton Elec.	\$36.237
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$601.27</b>
August 19, 2014 balance	\$8,345.72

## CONSERVATION RESERVE

July 15 - balance brought forward (negative)	(\$70,231.96)
Deposits	
Transfer from MM Capital fund	\$19,748.30
Iowa Room – Stone photo	\$25
Iowa Room – hoodie	\$25
Expenses	
Pro-Build – plywood	\$59.16
August 19, 2014 balance carried forward (negative)	(\$50,492.82)

## CAPITAL FUND

July 15, 2014 balance brought forward	\$18,748.30
Receipts	
Joan Barton Living Trust	\$1,000.00
Expenses	
Transfer to Conservation Reserve	\$19,748.30
August 19, 2014 balance	\$0.00

## INTERN REPORT

Engelhardt reported that Traci Ott worked from May 19 through August 9. Among other things, she: transcribed audio tapes; prepared a tour guide manual; worked on an interpretive plan; prepared lesson plans; helped with tours at Motor; and typed up “Motor Mill Memories” stories. Engelhardt, Harkrader, and the Silos and Smokestacks were very pleased with Ott’s accomplishments.

## MOTOR MILL TRAIL

Engelhardt has received approval from the Iowa DOT for a trail route along Grandview Road from Highway 13 to Communia. The suggestion is to work on completing that segment, then attempt further links to Motor, Elkader, or perhaps Osborne.

Nikolai urged the board to not rule out the option of a route from Grain Road north to Harbor Road. deNeui said a route through the Bud and Myra Voss property also is not out of the question.

## **REGIONAL TRAIL COUNT**

The next regional trails count is between Sept. 12 and 27. Engelhardt will be asking for volunteers to help.

## **STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

### **PROMOTING MOTOR**

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Nikolai wrote a letter to the editor of all local papers with the theme "If you like what we're doing, help us do more." It was printed in the Guttenberg Press. He asked for donations, and for volunteers to be on the board, to work at the Mill, or to be tour guides.

### **PARADES AND EVENTS**

The board took no action about whether to participate in any more parades this year.

John and Ellen agreed to be at Motor on August 23 to give tours to members of a tractorcade that will be passing through on that day.

The board discussed whether to participate in the Plagman Barn Show Days Sept. 19-21. Nikolai noted that past events have been poorly organized for the Friday school visits. Visitors to the booth on other days have been sporadic. Lenth said he has been notified that Motor's display space has been changed.

Buchholz moved that we not participate this year. Collins seconded. Motion carried, with only Lenth opposed. Lenth said he would attend the next Plagman Barn planning meeting to explain our decision.

### **BUSINESS PLAN**

Nikolai and Engelhardt reported no additional progress on the business plan.

### **ANNUAL EVENT/FUND RAISER**

The subcommittee to plan the September 13 event will meet Aug. 26 at 1:30 p.m. at Osborne. Members are: Nikolai, Lenth, Collins, Engelhardt, and Harkrader.

### **CONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION**

Lenth reported that shutters have been installed on the windows on the lower level of the Cooperage. They can be opened only from the inside. The Cooperage door also has been repaired and locked. The key is the same one used on the Stable and the Ice House.

deNeui and Lenth said the broken window sash on the Cooperage can be repaired.

deNeui hopes the floor joist from the first floor of the Mill can have the damaged edge trimmed off so they can be reused on the sixth floor. He will ask Chris Grau to begin finding logs to cut 50 new joists for the first floor.

deNeui will check on the condition of the tarps placed on the roofs of the Cooperage and the Ice House until we have the money to put permanent roofs on those buildings. One issue is the need to get enough old bricks to replace a chimney on the Cooperage.

## **OPEN ITEMS**

deNeui has delivered an old bookcase to Roger Buchholz to be repaired for use by the Foundation.

Harkrader received a message about visitors from Minnesota who claimed to be relatives of a stonemason who worked at Motor. She will try to learn more.

There may be a Model T tour visiting Motor on Sept. 18.

Nikolai said David Metz at Pine Creek Mill has suggested reference books that we should buy. He will provide details at the September meeting.

deNeui is preparing interpretive information about millstones.

While she was working at the Mill on Aug. 17, Buchholz had a long conversation with a visitor from Warren, Ill., who is a third generation to own a mill there.

We have received a large "Clayton County Bluff Country" sign to display at Motor. No decision has been made about where it should be installed.

Nikolai displayed six interpretive signs printed by SignsNFrames. One more is being completed. Most of the information was prepared by Dave Metz.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

TRRC – There was no TRRC meeting in July.

Education – Buchholz announced that she would resign from the board at the end of September to be able to spend more time with her grandson.

Lee Lenth shared timeline information he gleaned from the 1882 Clayton County History.

Collins hopes to stop in Lake George, N.Y., the hometown of James Crosby, to try to learn more about him.

## **DAWN AUSTIN**

Dawn Austin, president of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum in Burr Oak, asked about our marketing plan for Motor Mill. She said Facebook has been very successful for the Wilder Museum. She suggested posting frequent comments or updates about events affecting Motor.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 16, at the Osborne Conservation Center.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Nikolai adjourned the meeting about 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary