

## MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION

### Minutes

September 16, 2014

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, September 16. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order about 7:06 p.m. Other board members present were Jon deNeui, Betty Buchholz, Chuck Morine, Lee Lenth, Ellen Collins, and Larry Stone. Clayton County Conservation Board director Tim Engelhardt and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Ron Kaiser of Garnavillo was a guest.

### MINUTES

Lenth moved to approve the minutes of the August 19 meeting as printed. Stone seconded. Carried.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

August 19 beginning balance	\$8,345.72
Receipts	
Aug 18 – donations	\$119.00
Merchandise sales	\$143.00
Sept. 2 - Donations	\$362.00
Merchandise sales	\$55.00
Sept. 15 – donations	\$302.00
Stone photo sold	\$40.00
<i>TOTAL RECEIPTS</i>	<i>\$1,021.00</i>
Expenses	
Aug. 28 – SPOOM membership	\$50.00
Sept. 10 – Esser's Menswear, merchandise	\$280.34
Sept. 10 – R&R Dairy, Fun Day expense	\$41.40
Sept. 10 – Allam Clayton Elec	\$35.32
Sept. 10 – Jon deNeui, hardware	\$6.15
Sept. 15 – Tim Engelhardt, Fun Day expenses	\$36.45
<i>TOTAL EXPENSES</i>	<i>\$449.66</i>
<b>Sept. 16, 2014 balance</b>	<b>\$8,345.72</b>

## CONSERVATION RESERVE

July 15 - balance brought forward (negative) (\$50,492.82)

### *Deposits*

Todd & Charleen Nelson \$100.00

Robert Hinzman \$25.00

Harold & Deanna Krambeer \$1,000.00

Dawn Austin \$25.00

### *Expenses*

Pro-Build – roofing screws & washers \$26.70

**Sept. 16, 2014 balance carried forward (\$49,369.52)**

Morine said the Fun Day receipts were \$284. After expenses, the net was about \$231.

Nikolai delivered a donation of \$100 from the Boardman Questars.

## HERITAGE DAYS

Heritage Days at Osborne is Oct. 11-12. Morine volunteered to get displays from Motor and bring them to Osborne to set up Saturday morning. The board agreed to staff the Mill for tours as well. Volunteers will be needed throughout Saturday and Sunday.

Don Menken, former director of the Clayton County Conservation Board, has agreed to donate a Motor Mill commemorative belt buckle to the board to be used as a fund raiser

Mary Witt has donated a framed, signed and numbered silkscreen of Motor Mill by artist Wendell Mohr.

Collins moved to hold a silent auction for both items at Heritage Days. Lenth seconded. deNeui suggested that we set a reserve, or minimum starting bid. Carried.

## **MOTOR MILL TRAIL**

Engelhardt has met with Fehr Graham Engineering and Clayton County Engineer Rafe Koopman. A new idea for a trail route is from Grandview Road along the Bill and Annette Reimer property to the County Conservation Board land on the south side of Motor. Engelhardt will meet with the Reimers to discuss the concept. It's possible the Turkey River Watershed Management Authority might be able to install erosion control dams or other structures that could make the route more feasible.

Engineers estimate the cost of concrete alone at \$900,000 for about 3.4 miles if the trail is paved. Thus, Engelhardt said, the trail probably will be surfaced with limestone.

After discussion with the Voss and Rhomberg families, Engelhardt reported that a trail through their properties is not an option.

Nikolai presented a list of items that might be negotiated with landowners in an agreement to allow a trail through private land.

## **REGIONAL TRAIL COUNT**

The next regional trails count will be Sept. 24 and Sept. 27, with counters at Elkader's River Walk, Founder's Park, and the Pony Hollow Trail. Engelhardt is seeking volunteers to help.

## **STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

The board continues to look for ways to raise money for our capital campaign. The silent auction items for Heritage Days should help.

## **PROMOTING MOTOR**

Nikolai has been in touch with Katrina Moyna about arranging a program at the Driftless Area Wetlands Center at Marquette.

Stone spoke with Phyllis Green from Decorah who promised to consult with Decorah Questars groups about having someone from Motor Mill give a program for them.

On Sept. 14, Buchholz and Lenth spoke with Sid Eggers of Bellevue, who is an historic stone mason. His parents own Potter's Mill at Bellevue. He is quite interested in Motor and may be able to assist us in the future.

Phyllis Salon of Earlville also visited the Mill on Sept. 14. She said her grandfather, John Combs, helped build the pier for the iron bridge in 1898.

## **BOARD MEMBERS**

Tom Gifford has resigned from the board. The board thanked him for his service.

Nikolai has been in touch with David Scott of McGregor, who may be a potential volunteer.

Stone has spoken again with Jane Metcalf about volunteering.

Collins said she is resigning from the board. The board thanked her for her service.

## **PARADES AND EVENTS**

The board discussed whether participating in parades has been useful. Most members questioned the value.

The board reaffirmed the decision not to participate in Plagman Barn Show Days this year.

## **MOTOR MILL FUN DAY**

The board discussed the Fun Day, which was held on September 13. It was estimated that about 50 people may have attended. The turnout may have been affected by competition with the Iowa-Iowa State football game that afternoon. The board discussed making the Fun Day an annual event.

## **CONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION**

deNeui has talked with Chris Grau about providing 50 oak floor joists, 2x12 by 12 feet, to replace the deteriorating joists on the first floor of the Mill. The cost would be \$1,440.

deNeui moved that the board approve the project and ask Grau to begin locating the needed oak joists. Lenth seconded.

The board then discussed other repair and construction priorities at Motor. deNeui noted that the old joists removed from the first floor can be cut down to use as joists on the sixth floor. He said we have enough tongue and grooved flooring to replace the first floor, but more will be needed for the sixth floor. He is searching for a source.

deNeui also noted the continuing need for replacement of the roofs on the Ice House and the Cooperage. Nikolai pointed out that the Mill roof, which was replaced in 2009, is leaking again.

Engelhardt said the first floor repairs need to be a high priority because of public safety concerns.

The board unanimously approved the motion to contact Grau and proceed with the first floor repairs.

## **OPEN ITEMS**

Nikolai bought the book "The Quest for American Milling Secrets," which Dave Metz highly recommended. Stone moved to reimburse Nikolai \$44 for the purchase. Collins seconded. Carried.

Roger Buchholz has volunteered to repair the bookcase donated by deNeui. The project may need to wait until Buchholz completes work at Elkader's Founders Park.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

TRRC – Engelhardt said TRRC will sponsor a fun 5K run-walk on Pony Hollow Trail October 18. Costumes are encouraged.

Education – Nikolai and others met with Aaron Steinmann, marketing and communications manager for Silos and Smokestacks. He encouraged us to make more use of Facebook and other social media.

Facilities – Lenth moved that the Foundation reimburse deNeui \$58.68 for road sign banners telling the Mill's open hours and \$123.54 for hand rail brackets. Morine seconded. Carried.

There is a Solos and Smokestacks workshop on October 1 about using photography.

Lenth noted that one of the beams that had been under the water at the old dam site may be gone. Stone will investigate the situation and compare photos to look for changes.

Communications – Nikolai is up to date with sending thank-yous.

Education – Found a reference in the 1882 Clayton County History that a dam was in place about 1853-54, when the steamboat Kate Keen made a trip between Elkader and the Mississippi River. deNeui said that dam probably was for the sawmill, and that the dam remnants we see now could be from that original dam. Buchholz noted that the Hastings Bottoms sawmill may have been in operation in 1848, or perhaps earlier.

## **NEXT MEETING**

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

deNeui moved to adjourn the meeting about 9:20 p.m. Buchholtz seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary