

MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION

Minutes

February 17, 2015

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, February 17. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order about 7:12 p.m. Other board members present were Chuck Morine, Larry Stone, and Lee Lenth. Clayton County Conservation Board naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Ivan and Doris Hardt of Cedar Rapids were guests.

MINUTES

Nikolai accepted the minutes of the January 20 meeting as distributed, noting one correction to read that Stone (not Lenth) had seconded a motion dealing with nonprofit registry.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

Jan. 20 beginning balance	\$9,569.12
Receipts – Alliant match Maurer donation	\$25
Expenses – Allam-Clayton Elec	\$34.29
Dietz Donald tax prep	\$110.00
West Bend – liability insurance	\$250.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$394.29
February 17 balance	\$9,199.83

CONSERVATION RESERVE (no change from January)

Jan. 20, 2015 balance brought forward (negative)	(\$47,490.47)
Feb. 17, 2015 balance carried forward	(\$47,490.47)

Morine reported that the MMF tax return was filed Feb. 6, and the biannual report was filed Feb. 17.

VISIONING REVIEW & UPDATE

The board discussed the visioning plan, which was last updated in March 2013. Suggested changes included: delete speed control and land use issue from 6 mo-1 year needs; move tuck point and develop accommodations to long-term needs; delete south side canoe access.

General discussion included: emphasis on repairing beams in the first floor, which may need to wait until silt is removed from the basement; finishing the sixth floor beam and flooring replacement.

Nikolai has arranged a visit to Motor Mill by University of Wisconsin architectural history students in March. He said this could help support the vision of expanding educational programs. Nikolai has asked the staff of Seedorf Masonry to speak to the students. Ivan Hardt praised Seedorf for help in repairing Valley Mill, near Garnavillo, which he owns.

MOTOR MILL TRAIL

Stone reported that the Conservation Board has not yet received a response from the Iowa Department of Transportation regarding the proposal to route the trail along Grandview, the Reimer property, and the south unit of Motor Mill.

However, Roger Thomas has contacted a DOT spokesperson about the possibility of allowing the Motor trail grant to be used instead to complete trail loops around Elkader, or perhaps between Elkader and Elgin. The DOT did not rule out that idea, but noted the need for concurrence among all the parties.

Stone said the proposal will be on the agenda for the March 10 meeting of the Clayton County Conservation Board, which was the recipient of the DOT grant. He invited MMF board members to attend.

The board discussed the issues that have slowed progress on the trail. Board members noted that a trail in a poor location could become a negative, rather than a positive, for Motor.

STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

There was no new action on the capital campaign.

BOARD MEMBERS

Nikolai reported that Dennis Freitag has agreed to become a MMF board member, although he was unable to attend this meeting. Ivan Hardt, owner of Valley Mill on Buck Creek near Garnavillo, also has agreed to serve on the board.

Stone reported that Ron Kaiser remains interested, and that Greg Beisker said he will continue to volunteer at Motor as his time allows.

ROOF REPAIR

The roof repair has not yet started. It may not happen until spring.

OLD BUSINESS

The Board will work with Clayton County Conservation Board staff to see if the bookcase can be moved from the third floor to the conference room.

Lenth visited with Dave Metz, of Pine Creek Mill, during a trip to southeast Iowa. Metz gave him copies of several plans for repairing or rebuilding milling equipment. Those materials will be kept in the bookcase.

NEW BUSINESS

Silos and Smokestacks grant – Harkrader submitted the application to Silos and Smokestacks for a summer intern grant. Grant winners will be announced March 1.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

TRRC – Stone attended the Feb. 11 TRRC meeting. He reported that Motor Mill will again be one of the “Turkey River Safari” sites.

Clermont, Elgin, and Elkader all have contributed \$3,000 to TRRC. Fayette County has contributed \$10,000. The Clayton County Board of Supervisors has not made a commitment.

TRRC will have a digital billboard in LaCrosse, Wis., area. A photo of Motor Mill may be one of the images.

Roger Thomas hopes to revive the Clayton County Trails Coalition.

The NE Iowa regional trail user count is May 15-16. Volunteers are needed.

The annual Tri-P (Pedal-Paddle-Putt) fund raiser is June 28 at Clermont, with a July 19 rain date.

The Fayette County Conservation Board is continuing to make progress on plans for a trail bridge across the Turkey River at Gilbertson Park at Elgin.

COMMUNICATIONS – Nikolai is up to date with correspondence.

Lenth has the latest edition of SPOOM magazine.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is March 17 at 7 p.m. at the Osborne Conservation Center.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned about 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary