

MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION

Minutes

April 21, 2015

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, April 21. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order about 7:04 p.m. Other board members present were Chuck Morine, Larry Stone, Jon DeNeui, Ivan Hardt, and Lee Lenth. Clayton County Conservation Board naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

MINUTES

Morine moved to accept the minutes of the February 17 meeting as distributed. deNeui seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

Feb. 17 beginning balance	\$9,199.83
No receipts	
Expenses – Allam-Clayton Elec	\$32.10
Grau Logs & Lumber – floor joists	\$1,440.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,472.10
March 24 balance	\$7,727.73
March 24 beginning balance	\$7,727.73
Donation – Joan Ohnemus	\$50.00
Donation – Stones IMO Pat & Shorty Matt	\$100.00
Total receipts	\$150.00
Expenses	
Allamakee-Clayton Elec	\$32.10
April 21 balance	\$7,845.63

CONSERVATION RESERVE (no change from January)

Feb. 17, 2015 balance brought forward (negative)	(\$47,490.47)
Deposits – Iowa Room, sweatshirt	\$25.00
Expenses – advertising for intern ad (Clayton Co Reg - \$165; KCTN - \$180; Mid- American Pub. - \$78)	\$423.00

April 21 balance carried forward (\$47,888.47)

Morine moved to approve a payment of \$144 to Jansen Products for the annual web hosting fee. Lenth seconded. Carried.

INTERN

Harkrader reported that the Conservation Board has hired Samantha Tschirgi as a summer intern through the Silos and Smokestacks grant. She will begin work in late May.

MOTOR MILL TRAIL

Hardt reported on the April 14 meeting at which the Clayton County Conservation Board agreed to continue discussions with landowners about the possibility of a trail along the 150-year-old railroad right-of-way between Elkader and Motor on the northeast side of the Turkey River.

After clarifying what communications are permitted by the Iowa DOT, Conservation Board ranger Tucker Anderson has agreed to meet with landowners individually to discuss their questions and concerns.

Hardt noted that Dean Leonard may be a good liaison in communications with trail advocates and landowners. Lenth agreed that equestrian groups likely would be supportive.

deNeui noted that the Clayton County engineer and supervisors have said they are willing to assist with the design of the Elgin to Elkader leg of the Turkey River trail. The board discussed some of the pros and cons of routes along Chariot Road or Gunder Road. Lenth also noted that equestrians in the past have ridden along the north side of the river between Elkader and Big Spring.

STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The board discussed the potential of one-on-one requests for donations, large grants, or fund-raising banquets or events.

deNeui proposed the idea of signs on or near the bridge asking for donations to help pay for the bridge.

PROMOTION

Nikolai is completing an annual report, which he intends to use in promotions of Motor Mill.

BOARD MEMBERS

Nikolai urged members to continue to seek volunteers as tour guides and/or board members.

Harkrader has been contacted by Caterpillar officials, who suggested that their employees might be available for occasional volunteer projects.

ROOF REPAIR

The roof repair has not yet started. deNeui will contact ProBuild for more information.

VISIONING REVIEW & UPDATE

Jon deNeui had no additions to the visioning plan beyond what the board had discussed during the February meeting. Harkrader will print the updated plan.

OLD BUSINESS

About 10 University of Wisconsin architectural students visited Motor in March to tour the site and prepare measured drawings of the buildings.

Lee and Verna are working on wooden replicas of millstones on which to mount plaques recognizing donors.

Harkrader will work on updating Motor's Facebook page.

The board discussed the need to publish another Milling Around newsletter.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

TRRC – deNeui and Stone attended the April 7 TRRC meeting in Elkader. Business included: the regional trail count will be May 15-16; there will be a Clayton County Trails Coalition meeting April 22; TRRC will partner in a booth at the Iowa State Fair on Aug. 13; TRRC representatives attended Canoecopia in Madison, Wis., in March, and will go to a Midwest Mountaineering show in Minneapolis in April; RC&D staff are preparing a Clayton County trout fishing map; about 100-200 paddlers are expected to participate in the "Great River Rumble" beginning at Elkader on July 25; there will be a TRRC golf challenge Sept. 27; a "Turkey Trot" is planned for Oct. 17 on the Pony Hollow Trail.

GROUNDS – deNeui said that Grau delivered 16-foot floor joists instead of the 12-footers we ordered. The extra 4-foot planks can be used as stair treads.

The first volunteer work day of the season is Tuesday, April 28.

Central High School students will help with cleaning on Monday, April 27. Volunteers should meet at the Mill at 1 p.m.

Lenth is repairing the Cooperage window that was broken by vandals last year.

We still need recycled red clay bricks to use to repair the chimneys on the Cooperage.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is May 19 at 7 p.m. at the Osborne Conservation Center.

ADJOURNMENT – deNeui moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Stone seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary