

## MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION

### Minutes

June 16, 2015

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, June 16, 2015. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order about 7:03 p.m. Other board members present were Chuck Morine, Les Klink, Larry Stone, Jon deNeui, and Ivan Hardt. Lee Lenth arrived about 7:30 p.m. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock, naturalist Abbey Harkrader, and intern Samantha Tschirgi also attended. Ron Kaiser was a guest.

### MINUTES

Morine moved to accept the minutes of the May 19 meeting as distributed. deNeui seconded. Carried

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

May 18 beginning balance	\$7,691.62
Receipts	
May 26 - Donations at the Mill	\$176.00
May 29 - Amazon Smile Forum	\$5.00
June 9 – \$154 donations, \$30 merchandise at the Mill	\$184.00
Total receipts	\$365.00
Expenses	
May 20 – Esser's Menswear, merchandise	\$282.48
June 15 – Allam-Clayton Elec	\$33.10
Total expenses	\$315.58
June 16, 2015 balance	\$7,741.04

## CONSERVATION RESERVE

May 19, 2015 balance brought forward (negative)	(\$47,888.47)
Deposit – Iowa Room, 2 ball caps	\$24.00
June 16, 2015 balance carried forward	(\$47,864.47)

## MILL TOURS

Pollock said a tour group of Japanese journalists asked to visit Motor on Sunday, June 21. She will be getting more details.

Stone and Pollock have been in touch with Whistlin' Bit trail riders who plan to camp at Motor Saturday, June 20. Stone offered to give them a tour Saturday evening.

## UPDATE FROM SAMANTHA TSCHIRGI

Samantha Tschirgi said she has been working on a new issue of the Milling Around newsletter, as well as a PowerPoint program to be used for educational presentations. She will forward a draft of Milling Around to board members for proofreading.

Tschirgi announced that she is resigning. Her last day is giving tours at Motor on June 21. Pollock noted that Tschirgi has accepted another opportunity that more closely fits her education plans. The board thanked her for her service. There are no plans to replace her.

## PLACEMENT OF TOUR SIGNS

The board discussed where to post signs on days when the Mill is open for tours. The consensus was to add new banners to the IDOT signs at Highway 13 and Grandview, and at Highway 13 and Grape Road, and to continue using the sandwich board at Highway 13 and Grape. Lenth agreed to repaint the sandwich board, and to add the "noon to 5 p.m." wording.

deNeui moved that the board purchase four new banners for the two Highway 13 sites. Morine seconded. Carried.

## MOTOR MILL TRAIL

Pollock has met with a group of people who own land or represent landowners on a proposed trail route along the Turkey River between Motor and Elkader. She said the landowners carry hard feelings about how that trail route was proposed by the Iowa DOT and the Conservation Board without landowner input. The landowners also reported past trespassing issues and other concerns about a potential trail, and emphasized that they do not want to have any more contacts regarding a trail.

Pollock said the board should accept that. "It's their land and we need to back away," she said.

The board briefly discussed other options, including the idea of a trail from the south unit of Motor to Grandview, and then along Grandview to Highway 13. Pollock said she would examine that proposal, which has been submitted to IDOT, but awaits DOT review.

## ROOF REPAIRS

deNeui said the roofing contractor has promised to put Motor Mill on his June work schedule.

Harkrader noted that the roof has been leaking after the recent rains.

## CREATION OF MOTOR MILL VIDEO

Kevin Walsh, proprietor of the Irish Shanti at Gunder, has offered to regularly show a Motor Mill video at his business. Pollock is pursuing the idea of making a video. She has contacted a production company from Decorah, but also is considering the option of assigning the project to Conservation Board interns.

## STORIES IN STONE: Bridge Debt Reduction

Nikolai plans to bring a list of names of potential donors, and to ask that each board member agree to contact people to ask for contributions.

## OLD BUSINESS

Install donor recognition plaques – Nikolai has several more plaques that need to be installed on the donor boards.

Art/History on the website – The board briefly discussed ideas – such as a repeating video – to be used on the website to highlight images of Motor.

Library & bookshelf – Harkrader has arranged a number of Motor Mill references in a bookcase in the Osborne conference room. Pollock said that location is OK for now.

Iowa Barn Foundation – Pollock is working on article for the Iowa Barn Foundation's August magazine. The subject is Motor Mill being used as a barn. She is negotiating whether Motor might be on the Barn Foundation's fall 2015 tour.

## NEW BUSINESS

First floor progress – deNeui reported that volunteers have replaced the flooring on the first section of the first floor at the Mill. The next step is to replace more floor joists, and to move some large beams into the basement during the process.

Repair of passageway - deNeui has talked with Allen Mitchell and Rafe Koopman about how to repair the stones over the passageway between the Mill foundation and the road.

Basement silt – Pollock said representatives of the Office of the State Archeologist and the State Historical Society of Iowa will be here in July to discuss procedures for removing silt from the basement of the Mill.

TRRC – Stone and de Neui reported that TRRC agreed to support the Clayton County Engineer's commitment to engineer a trail route from Elgin to Elkader by way of Gunder, following Agate and Gunder roads. The engineer and the Clayton County Board of Supervisors were not receptive to a trail route closer to the Turkey River along Bugle and Big Spring Road.

Tour – Nikolai gave a tour to nine members of a "Merry Ladies" group from Delhi.

Grounds – Pollock said at least one of the people believed to be responsible for unauthorized campfires at Motor has been arrested on an unrelated charge.

Lenth proposed obtaining plastic panels to protect the lower windows on the Cooperage. He would then move the shutters to the upper level. Lenth will pursue the project further, and report back to the board.

Education – Lenth found an interesting article about the Motor school in a 1953 copy of the Elkader Register. He also reported on an article about the Kate Keen steamboat, which John Thompson bought after the boat owners had sued Thompson for erecting a dam at Motor.

Hardt donation of frames for Gordy Callison prints – Ivan Hardt offered to donate frames for any Gordy Callison prints the Foundation sells. The board accepted the offer with thanks, and agreed to offer the framed prints in the Iowa Room as a test market, and to have the framed prints at Motor for the Japanese journalists tour on June 21.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is July 21, at 7 p.m. at the Osborne Conservation Center.

ADJOURNMENT – Lenth moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. deNeui seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary