

MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION

Minutes

July 21, 2015

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, July 21 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, Ivan Hardt, and Lee Lenth. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

AGENDA

Pollock asked to add an item on Silos and Smokestacks intern pay.

MINUTES

deNeui moved to approve the minutes of the June 16 meeting as printed. Lenth seconded. Carried

TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

June 16 beginning balance	\$7,741.04
Receipts	
June 23 – donations	\$380.50
July 8 – donations	\$85.00
July 13 – donations	\$142.00
Merchandise sales	\$105.00
Total receipts	\$712.50
Expenses	
June 16 – Nikolai, donor plate engraving	\$39.68
July 10 – Signs & Frames, vinyl signs	\$117.24
July 10 – Allamakee-Clayton Elec.	\$34.64
Total expenses	\$191.56
July 21, 2015 balance	\$8,261.98

CONSERVATION RESERVE

June 16, 2015 balance brought forward (negative)	(\$47,864.47)
Deposit – Iowa Room, photo & 3 t-shirts	\$85.00
Darrell Schaper donation	\$100.00
Expenses – mail donor certificate	\$1.25
July 21, 2015 balance carried forward	(\$47,680.72)

OLD BUSINESS

PLACEMENT OF TOUR SIGNS

Harkrader said there should be no problem leaving the sandwich board sign at Highway 13 and Grape Road on Saturday nights on tour weekends.

The board discussed the pros and cons of Motor Mill signs at Highway 13 and Grape Road, but took no action to change the signs that are at that intersection.

deNeui has received “Open for Tours 9 a.m.-noon” signs to place on Highway 13 DOT signs at Grandview Road and Grape Road. He promised to have the signs ready to erect by July 25.

ROOF REPAIRS

deNeui has not been able to get a commitment from Siebert Construction about when the Mill roof will be repaired. Pollock said she would follow up with the company.

STORIES IN STONE – BRIDGE DEBT REDUCTION

Nikolai is reviewing the existing donor list. The board discussed whether a dike, trail, or silt removal project might generate more publicity and therefore more donations.

SILOS AND SMOKESTACKS INTERN PAY

Pollock said the Conservation Board paid \$356.89 to our Silos and Smokestacks intern before her resignation. Stone moved to repay that amount to the Conservation Board. Lenth seconded. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

FRED STROSCHEIN AWARD

Nikolai hopes to arrange for Fred Stroschein to attend the August meeting to receive a volunteer service award.

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST VISIT

Three representatives of the Iowa State Historical Society and the Office of the State Archaeologist visited Motor on July 21. They specifically looked at the basement silt removal issues, but also showed considerable interest in the entire site.

They recommended possible remote sensing techniques to learn what might be hidden under the silt in the basement, as well as along the river bank and river bed upstream from the mill. Pollock will research possible grants for the work while awaiting more details of the procedures.

Hardt moved that the board support further investigation of the remote sensing project. deNeui seconded. Carried.

The State Historical Society also may be able to help secure grants to replace the roofs on the Ice House and the Cooperage.

CLAYTON COUNTY FAIR EXHIBIT

The Clayton County Fair is August 6-9. The board decided to display one or more of the donor recognition boards from the Mill, along with mill equipment drawings by Dave Metz. Hardt also suggested displaying the prints by Gordy Callison for which he has donated frames. The board agreed to allow visitors to enter a drawing for a free set of Callison prints. Nikolai said he would contact board members by email to arrange a schedule to staff the exhibit.

MOTOR MILL 2014 REPORT

Nikolai has almost completed the annual report and will make it available at the August meeting.

REVIEW INTERPRETIVE PLAN

Stone attended a July 13 interpretive workshop by Kenny Slocum, naturalist for the Clayton County Conservation Board. Slocum emphasized the importance of showing your passion for the subject, and of telling stories that visitors can relate to. We should inspire people to think, rather than just give them facts.

Harkrader distributed copies of a Motor Mill scavenger hunt that she and 2014 intern Tracy Ott prepared. She urged tour guides to encourage young visitors to explore and find the items listed.

UPDATES

Restoration - deNeui has talked with Allen Mitchell and County Engineer Rafe Koopman about repairs to the passage on the road side of the Mill basement. deNeui proposed renting a min-excavator to clean the trench. He also has arranged with Swales Concrete to make new caps for the passage.

TRRC – The Turkey River Recreational Corridor trail count is July 26 & 27. Pollock asked for volunteers to count at the Pony Hollow Trail.

Grounds – Pollock said the Conservation Board staff has put more sand/gravel on the Motor boat ramp and mowed a better path from a sandbar above the boat ramp, in anticipation of visitors from the Great River Rumble event on July 26. Stone will be meeting with GRR organizers on July 25 to determine whether a stop at the Mill is feasible.

Education - Lenth visited Pine Creek gristmill in Muscatine County. He suggested that we use their idea of small millstones that children can use to grind grain.

Communication – Nikolai visited the Garnavillo Historical Museum and made copies of a number of documents that may be useful for researching Motor Mill History.

Ivan Hardt donated several years of SPOOM (Society for the Preservation of Old Mills) magazines.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is Aug. 18, at 7 p.m. at the Osborne Conservation Center.

ADJOURNMENT – deNeui moved to adjourn the meeting at 9 p.m. Stone seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary