

MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION

Minutes

September 15, 2015

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, September 15, 2015. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order about 7:00 p.m. Other board members present were Chuck Morine, Les Klink, Larry Stone, Jon deNeui, and Lee Lenth. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Ivan Hardt and Peter Kann were guests.

AGENDA

Morine asked to add items on: staffing for September 26-27 tours, staffing for Heritage Days, grounds updates, and the board elections in October.

MINUTES

Nikolai accepted the minutes of the August 18 meeting as printed and distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

August 18 beginning balance	\$7,723.46
<i>Receipts</i>	
Aug. 24 – donations	\$272.00
Merchandise sales	\$9.00
Sept. 11 – Hardt Pioneer Farms, donation	\$1,000.00
Sept. 14 – donations	\$265.00
Merchandise sales	\$48.00
<i>Total receipts</i>	\$1,594.00

Expenses

Aug. 19 – SPOOM membership	\$50.00
Aug. 19 – Seibert Construction, Mill roof repair	\$1,800.00
Sept. 11 - Allam-Clayton Elec.	\$33.56
<i>Total expenses</i>	\$951.52
September 15, 2015 balance	\$7,433.90

CONSERVATION RESERVE

August 18, 2015 balance brought forward (negative)	(\$47,580.72)
Deposits – Iowa Room, photo	\$65.00
Iowa Room, 2 t-shirts	\$30.00
Sept. 15, 2015 balance carried forward	(\$47,485.72)

Lenth moved to accept the treasurer's report. deNeui seconded. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

RECRUITMENT

Nikolai has learned that John Kregel is not interested in volunteering. Other people, including Chris Gregorson, may be able to help on weekends. Nikolai has approached Bob Bente about helping after Bente retires from his grocery business on Sept. 30.

Lenth has met with Mr. & Mrs. Eldon Fenton of Strawberry Point.

The board agreed to seek more possible volunteers at Heritage Days.

TOURS

The board discussed staffing for Mill tours on Sept. 26-27 and during Heritage Days. deNeui and Nikolai will be at the Mill Sept 26, and Chuck and Syd Morine will work Sept. 27. Stone can help Sept. 27.

It was agreed to have the Mill open from noon until 5 p.m. for Heritage Days, on Oct. 10-11.

Hardt has provided frames for two more Gordy Callison prints, which will be given away after a drawing at Heritage Days.

GREAT RIVER ROAD INTERPRETIVE CENTER NOMINATION

Pollock submitted an application to have Motor Mill named as a Great River Road Interpretive Center. The Clayton County Board of Supervisors and others submitted letters of support. We should hear the outcome of the application in November.

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (CLG) GRANT

After a series of discussions, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Office of the State Archeologist were unable to recommend how to proceed with a study of the need for silt removal from the Mill basement. Thus, Pollock did not submit an application for the project.

Harkrader suggested that we contact Bob Palmer at Effigy Mounds National Monument for other suggestions. Nikolai agreed to talk with Palmer.

TRAFFIC COUNTER

Nikolai is still trying to talk with Rafe Koopman about using a traffic counter to monitor use of the Motor Mill bridge. Pollock will attempt to locate a counter, either from the Clayton County Conservation Board or another entity. Hardt offered to try to get repairs done on a CCCB counter, if feasible.

NEW BUSINESS

DRONE FOOTAGE

Tom Hotard of Bettendorf, operator of Aerial Intelligence, used a drone to make video and still photos of Motor Mill. He has donated the images to the Motor Mill Foundation. The video has been posted on the Motor Mill Facebook page and the website. The board agreed to have a silent auction of the large, metallic still photos at Heritage Days.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Nikolai is still waiting for a response about when he can give a Motor Mill program at the Driftless Area Wetlands Centre at Marquette. He urged board members to look for other opportunities to make presentations to service clubs or public groups.

ELECTION

Morine noted that the board's annual elections will be held October 20. Three-year terms expire for Morine, Stone, Muller, and Lenth. All will be up for re-election. Possible new board members include Ivan Hardt and Peter Kann. Other candidates are welcome. We also will elect board officers.

UPDATES

Restoration - deNeui said volunteers have continued to work on replacing floor joists and flooring on the first floor of the mill.

Work to clean out and repair the ventilation passage on the road side of the Mill is waiting for the availability of additional concrete caps, for a source of clay to seal the top, and for Alan Mitchell to have time to use his excavator.

The temporary roof coverings on the Ice House and Cooperage are still holding – but need to be replaced as soon as possible.

Used bricks are needed to make repairs on the Cooperage chimneys.

Grounds - Morine reported that a pedestrian crossing sign had been stolen from the barricades around the ventilation tunnel on the road beside the Mill.

Pollock said that Kenny Slocum is planning a 5K race at Motor in March of 2016.

Education - Lenth has interviewed Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Fenton of Strawberry Point, who have family ties to John Thompson, and a strong interest in Motor Mill history. The Fentons donated a photo of the bridge, apparently taken sometime in the early 1900s. They also have offered to donate a stone table that would be made to look like a millstone.

Lenth also has been reading the 1882 History of Clayton County, and making notes about references to Motor Mill.

Communications - We have received a newsletter from Friends of the Pine Creek Mill.

TRRC - Discussion continues about the route and management of a proposed trail between Elgin and Elkader. Rafe Koopman met with the Clayton County Conservation Board on Sept. 8.

There will be a Clayton County Recreational Trails Coalition meeting on Sept. 22. The group will meet at the Cassville Ferry at 5 p.m.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting will be October 20, 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