

MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION

Minutes

October 20, 2015

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

AGENDA

Hardt asked to add items to the agenda on getting a traffic counter, and setting maintenance priorities for the Motor Mill historic site. Recognition of Jeanette Muller will be postponed, since she was ill and unable to attend the meeting.

MINUTES

Morine moved to accept the minutes of the September 15 meeting as distributed. Lenth seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

Sept. 15 - beginning balance	\$7,433.90
<i>Receipts</i>	
Sept. 21 – Kay Connelly donation	\$500.00
Sept. 29 – donations (from Sept 26-27)	\$184.00
Oct. 6 – rental refund from Nelson's True Value	\$217.11
Oct. 13 – Heritage Days donations at Mill	\$220.00
Heritage Days donations at Osborne	\$131.32
Heritage Days merchandise sales	\$298.00
Return of change	\$40.00
Oct. 16 – donation	\$10.00
Donation, Hawki Model A Club	\$200.00
<i>Total receipts</i>	\$1,800.43

Expenses

Sept. 16 – John Nikolai, flooring nails	\$23.10
Oct. 2 – Nelson’s True Value, excavator rental	\$551.34
Oct. 9 – Allamakee-Clayton Elec. Coop	\$35.02
Oct. 9 – Esser’s Menswear, merchandise	\$52.17
<i>Total expenses</i>	\$661.63
October 20 balance	\$8,572.70

CONSERVATION RESERVE

September 16, 2015 balance brought forward (negative)	(\$47,485.72)
Deposits – Iowa Room, cap	\$12.00
Iowa Room, Heritage Days, 2 hoodies, 1 coozie	\$52.00
October 20, 2015 balance carried forward	(\$47,421.72)

OLD BUSINESS

HERITAGE DAYS REVIEW

Our presence at Heritage Days, Oct. 10-11, was deemed successful, with good crowds both at Osborne and Motor Mill both days.

The board discussed whether the Foundation might consider selling caramel apples at the 2016 event. The consensus was that we not sell food, given the likely permits needed and the shortage of volunteers.

MODEL A VISIT

Forty-three people in about 20 vehicles from the Hawki Model A Club visited the Mill on October 16. Nikolai, Lenth, and Stone gave tours. The group seemed quite interested, and left a donation of \$200.

GREAT RIVER ROAD INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Pollock reported that the Mississippi River Parkway Commission has approved Motor Mill's application to become a Great River Road Interpretive Center. The commission has asked about accessibility for disabled visitors. The commission also suggested increasing signage, advertising, and hours of operation. Jane Regan, an Iowa representative for the Parkway Commission, may attend the November 10 Clayton County Conservation Board meeting to make a presentation.

TRAFFIC COUNTER

Nikolai talked with Rafe Koopman about using a traffic counter to monitor use of the Motor Mill bridge, but did not receive any commitment for the project. Pollock will check on the availability of a Clayton County Conservation Board counter.

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Morine moved to elect Stone, Lenth, Hardt, and Morine for three-year terms to the Motor Mill board of directors. Lenth seconded. Carried.

Morine moved to re-elect the current officers: chair – Nikolai; vice-chair, deNeui; secretary, Stone; and treasurer, Morine. Hardt seconded. Carried.

The board briefly discussed other potential board members.

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Morine moved to remove Tim Engelhardt's name from the signatures allowed on the Central State Bank checking account, and to add Jenna Pollock. Lenth seconded. Carried.

MOTOR MILL MEMORIES

The board discussed the need to schedule another "Motor Mill Memories" session to get input from people who have memories to share.

FFA MEMBERS & RECRUITMENT

Nikolai has been in touch with Jerry O'Brien, FFA advisor for Central and Clayton Ridge Schools, with the hope of making a presentation and recruiting FFA students to be volunteers or tour guides.

IDEAS FROM PINE CREEK MILL

Nikolai, Lenth, and Morine recently visited Pine Creek Mill, near Muscatine, on a trip with the Clayton County OWLS group. Nikolai has obtained schematic drawing by Dave Metz showing how Motor Mill may have operated. Lenth noted the popularity of a Pine Creek demonstration of how logs are hewn into posts and beams. The board also noted the need to have a demonstration of how grain is ground with millstones.

MAINTENANCE AND WORK PRIORITIES

The board discussed how to determine which projects should be done at Motor. It was noted that the ongoing repair of the first floor and putting new caps on the ventilation passage were undertaken for safety reasons. The roofs on the ice house and the cooperage also need to be replaced soon to prevent deterioration of those buildings. Removing the basement silt also has been discussed for some time, but the basement situation is stable, so other work has taken precedent.

UPDATES

Restoration - Volunteer work continues to replace floor joists and flooring on the first floor of the mill. Replacing caps on the ventilation passage should be complete before winter.

Education - Lenth has continued to research the 1866 Clayton County History for references to Motor. He noted John Thompson's plans to ship flour from Motor to Clayton. Hardt added that flour was transported from Valley Mill, near Garnavillo, to Clayton

Communications – Nikolai has arranged with Kevin Walch to show the Motor Mill drone video on a large screen TV at The Shanti in Gunder.

TRRC – Stone reported that Fayette County has received a grant to complete a trail and bridge from Elgin across the Turkey River to the Clayton County line.

Pollock said the recent trail count went well. Future trail counts may be limited to once per year, rather than three times.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting will be November 17, at 7 p.m., at the Osborne Conservation Center.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary