

MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION

Minutes

November 17, 2015

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, November 17, 2015. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order about 7:03 p.m. Other board members present were Chuck Morine, Jon deNeui, Larry Stone, Ivan Hardt, Les Klink and Lee Lenth. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Bob Bente and Peter Kann were guests.

AGENDA

deNeui moved to approve the agenda as printed. Stone seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the October 20 meeting as distributed. Stone seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

Oct. 20 - beginning balance	\$8,572.70
<i>Receipts</i>	
Oct. 29 – Irish Shanti donation box	\$61.52
<i>Total receipts</i>	\$61.52
 <i>Expenses</i>	
Oct. 20 – Signs-n-Frames, Muller certificate	\$76.80
Nov. 16 – Allam-Clayton Elec	\$35.35
<i>Total expenses</i>	\$112.15
 Nov. 17 balance	 \$8,522.07

CONSERVATION RESERVE

Oct. 20, 2015 balance brought forward (negative)	(\$47,421.72)
Deposits – Iowa Room, hoodie	\$25.00
Heritage Days, silent auction	\$650.00
Nov. 17, 2015 balance carried forward	(\$46,746.72)

Hardt moved to accept the treasurer's report. Stone seconded. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

JEANETTE MULLER RECOGNITION

Muller was unable to attend, but may be able to come to a future meeting

GREAT RIVER ROAD INTERPRETIVE CENTER

The nomination to make Motor Mill a Great River Road Interpretive Center has been accepted by the Mississippi River Parkway Commission. Jane Regan of Harpers Ferry and Lori Wallace of Guttenberg made the presentation to the Clayton County Conservation Board on Nov. 10. The recognition should help get more publicity for Motor, as well as open more opportunities for possible grants. The Parkway Commission also may help provide some interpret training.

NEW BUSINESS

FLOOD INSURANCE RENEWAL

A flood insurance policy required for a FEMA grant is up for renewal. But since most county properties are self-insured, the board elected not to renew the policy. Morine moved to drop the policy. Lenth seconded. Carried.

MOTOR MILL TRAIL

In 2011, the Clayton County Conservation Board received an Iowa DOT grant to help build a trail along the north side of the Turkey River from Motor Mill to a connection with the Pony Hollow Trail near Elkader. After much discussion, however, private landowners along the route refused to permit the project.

Pollock has contacted DOT officials to suggest that the grant instead be used to connect the north and south ends of the Pony Hollow Trail on a route along the highway 13 right-of-way and some nearby private land. The DOT has not yet made a decision on whether the trail grant could be used in that way.

Hardt questioned whether that route alongside a busy highway would be acceptable to the public.

UPDATES

Student volunteers - A group of students from Central (Elkader) High School, under the supervision of social studies teacher Mark Wiley, volunteered to work at Motor Mill on November 3. The young people moved a number of heavy floor joists from the first floor to the fourth floor. The help was very much appreciated!

Garnavillo Historical Museum – Nikolai has continued to attempt to arrange to search for James Crosby files in the Garnavillo Historical Museum.

Restoration – deNeui said he will seek to get an updated from quote from Gary Goyette for replacing the roofs on the Ice House and the Cooperage. He said we need to apply for a grant to get the work done relatively soon. The temporary plastic coverings are deteriorating.

Visioning plan – The board reviewed the vision plan and discussed priorities for restoration work. deNeui said we might need to get more southern yellow pine to use for replacing the upper floors of the Mill, and eventually flooring in the Inn and the Cooperage.

Cleaning out silt from the basement remains a high priority.

We hope to finish replacing the capstones on the passageway on the road side of the Mill before winter weather. We are waiting on Swales to make the concrete caps.

Education - Lenth and Stone waded in the river to locate four iron stakes that apparently were part of the dam structure. The board discussed how to mark and interpret the stakes. The board also discussed how to protect and preserve an old dam beam that has been chained to an anchor in the bank since last spring. A second beam remains in the riverbed, where it is visible during low water. deNeui said it might be possible to use these clues to determine how the dam was built. Nikolai noted that there are photos in the Carter House archives that show construction of a dam at Elkader.

Communications – Nikolai reported that about 780 people signed the visitors' log in 2015.

TRRC – Pollock said Rod Marlatt gave details of the grant and plans for Fayette County to build a bridge across the Turkey River at Elgin, and to continue the trail to the Clayton

Trail count – Pollock distributed a report on the 2015 trail counts.

SPOOM AD – Hardt suggested that we advertise in the Society for the Preservation of Old Mill (SPOOM) magazine to sell prints of the Motor Mill drawings done by Gordy Callison. He will investigate the cost.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting will be December 15, at 7 p.m., at the Osborne Conservation Center.

ADJOURNMENT – Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m. Hardt seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary