

MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION

Minutes

June 21, 2016

The monthly meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation was held at the Osborne Nature Center on Tuesday, June 21, 2016. The meeting was called to order by President John Nikolai at 7:08 pm. Board members present included John Nikolai, John deNeui, Ivan Hardt, and Lee Lenth. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock was also in attendance along with guests Jane Metcalf, David Beck, Chris Shane, Peter Kann, and Jessica Wegmann.

President John Nikolai appointed Jessica Wegmann to record minutes for the meeting in the absence of Secretary Larry Stone.

Prior Minutes

John deNeui moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting held May 17, 2016. Lee Lenth seconded the motion. No members were opposed, thus the motion was carried.

Treasurer's Report

This report is attached separately. The \$5 ACH credit was discussed and was likely a result of Amazon purchases made by John deNeui. No changes or corrections were made to the Treasurer's Report.

Old Business

Clayton Co. Fair Space

The charge for space at the Clayton County Fair was resolved by John Nikolai. There will be no charge for the Motor Mill Foundation to use said space.

Volunteer Tuesdays

The first loft joists are completed, with the second joists underway. No work was able to be done on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 due to lack of volunteers.

Trail Discussion

John deNeui gave an update on the most recent TRRC meeting and shared information regarding a Fayette County trail that has the potential to link up to a Clayton County trail that has not yet planned. There was confusion over the location of this trail, which was resolved through clarification given by Jenna Pollock. Jenna also explained that the trail development process would be restarting with an alternative route once the paperwork for the Highway 13 shoulder project is completed. No further action was taken by the Foundation, however there is still an obvious interest in developing a trail near the Motor Mill area in the future.

Motor Memories

John Nikolai volunteered to begin planning this event for the week of August 22, 2016. He plans to send out an email to check for availability in the near future.

Site Repairs

John deNeui expressed the need for permanent anchor points for better safety, as well as possibly using an adhesive to keep shingles in place.

Signage came up as another concern for the site, with possible solutions being grant opportunities. These grants may also solve the issue of funding for icehouse and cooperage roof replacements since John Nikolai was denied a grant from the Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation for these repairs.

Grants

John Nikolai reported that his application from Dubuque Racing Association was unsuccessful, but he will also be applying for a grant from Upper Mississippi Gaming Corp.

Request

There has been a request by visitors to start selling sweatshirts without hoodies (crewneck). This may also be a lighter weight option. Jessica Wegmann confirmed that this is a very popular style in her experience and having them on hand would benefit sales.

New Business

July 16th Youth Tour

John Nikolai requested the help of an extra volunteer, otherwise the event is taken care of.

Hands on Display Development

Jessica Wegmann informed the foundation of her contact with community members, including 4-H leaders and the ISU Extension office, regarding an interactive display at the mill site that will allow visitors to learn about the milling process by engaging themselves with this display. Jessica suggested that the display inform visitors about the grinding process or the flume and turbine system. A miniature set of millstones was suggested and well received by many foundation members as a way to engage visitors.

Survey

Jessica Wegmann produced a survey that has generated roughly 70 responses about what friends of the Motor Mill would like to see it become in the future. 56% of respondents said they would like to see the mill become an educational center or museum while 44% said they would like to see the mill serve another purpose such as an event center, art gallery, or reception hall. The goal of the survey is to get a goal in place for the foundation to work towards as the Motor Mill site continues its restoration.

150 years celebration

This idea was a continuation off of the survey. Jenna spoke to the foundation members and appealed to them to have regular hours for the mill as well as a full-time employee at the mill. She would also like the foundation to start planning for the 150 years celebration that is coming up in a couple of years, perhaps to hold some type of event to exhibit the mill's restoration.

Other updates

John deNeui proposed that an exhibit be made with a full-scale indoor model of the dam.

Ivan Hardt proposed that a separate meeting be held to discuss the history of Motor Mill and separate legend from fact. Jessica Wegmann volunteered to organize this meeting.

David Beck discussed his findings at the Garnavillo Museum, one of his most intriguing finds was to learn that the ice house on site was never an ice house at all, but rather a smoke house. This information comes from writings of James Crosby himself.

All in attendance discussed the need for more organization in areas of the Motor Mill Memory files and an interpretive lesson plan for tour guides to present to visitors. Jessica Wegmann and Jenna Pollock informed the foundation that Jessica is currently sorting through files located at the Osborne Nature Center in order to get such information better organized.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation will be held at the Osborne Nature Center on Tuesday, July 19, 2016 at 7 pm.

Adjournment

John Nikolai motioned for the adjournment of the June 21, 2016 Motor Mill Foundation meeting. John deNeui moves and Ivan Hardt seconds. Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Wegmann