

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

DRAFT

Sept. 20, 2016

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, Sept. 20, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Other members present were Les Klink, Ivan Hardt, Larry Stone, Chuck Morine, and Jon deNeui. Guests included David Beck, Ken Zichal, Bob Bente, and Chris Schoen. Conservation board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

Agenda

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

Minutes

Hardt moved to approve the minutes of the August 16 meeting as distributed. deNeui seconded. Carried.

Treasurer's Report

Morine presented the following financial report:

Aug. 16 – Beginning balance	\$7,663.36
Receipts	
Aug, 24 – donations	\$247.00
Merchandise sales	\$92.00
Sept. 6 – donations	\$422.00
Merchandise sales	\$53.00
Sept. 15 – donations	\$50.00
Stone photo	\$60.00
Sept. 20 – donations	\$140.00
Merchandise sales	\$30.00
TOTAL RECIEPTS	\$1,094.00

Expenses

Aug. 19 – Signs & Frames, frame eagle picture	\$73.63
Aug. 19 - Heritage Printing, 1000 rack cards	\$286.00
Aug. 19 – Alpine, telephone	\$13.96
Sept. 15 – Allam. Clayton Elec	\$34.62
Sept. 15 – Jon deNeui, electrical supplies	\$258.58
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$666.79
CURRENT BALANCE	\$8,090.57

CONSERVATION RESERVE

Aug. 17, 2016 balance brought forward (negative)	(\$43,814.69)
Deposits – Luther College tour donation	\$35.00
Expenses – Grau Logs & Lumber, 2x4x12 (5)	\$120.00
Sept. 20, 2016 balance carried forward (negative)	(\$43,899.69)

Zichal moved to accept the financial report. Hardt seconded. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

GRANTS

Pollock reported that the Conservation Board has received a \$10,000 grant from Silos and Smokestacks to be used for developing, printing, and installing interpretive panels at Motor Mill. RC&D will prepare the panels, which were designed by summer intern Jessica Wegmann.

The Conservation Board also received a \$1,057 Iowa Tourism grant for new interpretive brochures for Motor.

CELEBRATION

Nikolai noted that volunteers began working at Motor in 2004. Work will be completed on replacing the flooring in the loft this month. He suggested a recognition party for volunteers. Hardt moved to invite the volunteers to the Motor Mill Memories event on Sept. 28. deNeui seconded. Carried.

Nikolai will mail invitations to volunteers and past MMM participants.

MEASURED DRAWINGS

Nikolai has received measured drawings done by students of Anna Andrzejewski at the U-W/Madison school of architecture. He has given them to Martin-Gardner Architecture for copying.

MOTOR MILL MEMORIES PLANNING

Pollock will contact caterers about supplying a light lunch. The Conservation Board will provide coffee. Stone will arrange with Joleen Jansen to record the discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

INTERPRETIVE PANELS

Jared Nielsen from NE Iowa RC&D will meet with the foundation board (when?) to review the interpretive panel design prepared by summer intern Jessica Wegmann.

HERITAGE DAYS BOOTH

Morine volunteered to bring merchandise and some interpretive materials from Motor to Osborne on Friday, Oct. 7, and to help set up our booth the morning of Saturday, Oct. 8. All board members are asked to help during the weekend, either at Osborne or as tour guides at the Mill.

TRAIL PLAN

Pollock and Darla Kelchen prepared a county-wide "active transportation plan," with a mission to "enrich the quality of life for all people through the sustainable development of communities by advancing and promoting the development, preservation, and enjoyment of diverse, high quality active transportation systems."

The Board of Supervisors has not endorsed the plan, but informally suggested that more consideration should be given to ATVs and UTVs.

At an inter-agency trails meeting to discuss a trail and/or paved road to the Cassville ferry landing, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife and the Clayton County engineer opposed the paving option because of anticipated maintenance problems in the floodplain.

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED FOR MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION

The board will elect officers and possibly add board members at the October 18 meeting. Nikolai and deNeui will be up for re-election, as their 3-year terms will expire. Possible new candidates include David Beck, Ken Zichal, Bob Bente, Chris Schoen, and Jane Metcalf.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT

The board informally discussed the advisability of setting up an endowment through the Clayton County Foundation for the Future. One advantage would be to give donors a 25% tax credit on their Iowa income taxes. And the Motor Mill Foundation could receive a 5 percent payout annually, once the endowment reached \$10,000. The Foundation for the Future also could help promote Motor as a destination for donations.

Disadvantages included the need for immediate (rather than endowment) funds to finish paying for the new bridge and other projects. Also, donors often want to see direct results of their gifts.

The board took no action, but Nikolai appointed a subcommittee to study fund-raising. The members are Nikolai, deNeui, Zichal, and Stone. The subcommittee's first meeting will be October 5.

SCRAP WOOD POTENTIAL DONORS

Beck and Lee Lenth have been in touch with Merl and Kathy Hoppenworth, of Slater, Ia., who asked if they could have scrap wood from Motor to use to build a piece of furniture. The board agreed that there are a number of old floor joists that are not useable for any renovation work at the mill.

TESTING BASEMENT SILT

Schoen has used a Seymour bucket auger, which could be adapted to make test holes in the basement silt to search for artifacts. Nikolai noted that such tests could help determine whether silt that is removed must be screened, or whether it can be removed by heavy machinery.

Pollock noted that two structural engineers who looked at the basement after the floods differed in their opinions about whether and how the silt should be removed.

deNeui said volunteer workers will close off the upstream arches in the Mill basement to attempt to keep some of the silt out of the basement.

Hardt moved that we proceed with the auger method to look for artifacts in the basement. deNeui seconded. Carried. Schoen will procure the auger.

Harkrader and Pollock have arranged with UNI student Addy Schober to set up a grid in the basement and do systematic digging and screening of silt and flood debris. Addy will do 15 hours of work as a class project.

HISTORY DISCUSSION

David Beck shared information about his extensive research of Motor Mill history, including a copy of the original plat of Motor, a photo from the bluff east of the river showing the old bridge and the town, and questions about the location of the Downie sawmill(s).

Beck also relayed memories from Hank and Lennie Beck that the passageway between the basement wall and the road was open to the outside on both ends.

ADJOURNMENT

Stone moved to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. Bente seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary
Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County