

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

DRAFT

Oct. 18, 2016

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, Oct. 18, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Other members present were Les Klink, Lee Lenth, Larry Stone, Chuck Morine, and Jon deNeui. Guests included Bob Bente, Jane Metcalf, and Chris Schoen. Conservation board naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

Agenda

Nikolai asked to add a demonstration on soil borings to the agenda.

Minutes

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the Sept. 20 meeting as distributed. deNeui seconded. Carried.

Treasurer's Report

Morine presented the following financial report:

Sept. 20 – Beginning balance	\$8,090.57
Receipts	
Sept. 22 – donations	\$70.00
Sept. 28 - Merchandise sales	\$66.00
Sept. 29 – donations	\$103.00
Oct. 11 - Heritage Days donations	\$366.32
Heritage Days merchandise sales	\$131.00
Heritage Days, Stone prints	\$200.00
Return of change	\$40.00
Oct. 17 – donations	\$38.00
TOTAL RECIEPTS	\$1,014.32

Expenses

Sept. 22 – Alpine Communications	\$13.96
Sept. 23 – Edgewood Locker, MM Memories food	\$41.86
Sept. 27 – Wilkes, MMM food	\$38.37
Sept. 27 – Shanti, MMM food	\$41.20
Sept. 27 – Treat, MMM food	\$16.05
Sept. 30 – Nikolai, supplies	\$17.69
Oct. 4 – Esser’s Menswear, merchandise	\$125.00
Oct. 8 – Allamakee Clayton Elec.	\$34.63
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$328.76
CURRENT BALANCE	\$8,776.13

CONSERVATION RESERVE

Sept. 21, 2016 balance brought forward (negative)	(\$43,899.69)
Deposits – Iowa Room – Heritage Days	\$92
Oct. 18, 2016 balance carried forward (negative)	(\$43,807.69)

Lenth moved to accept the financial report. Stone seconded. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

Nikolai, Stone, and deNeui met Oct. 5 with Ken and Fran Zichal to discuss fund raising options. The committee agreed that it is easier to get donations for a specific project (e.g., Mill windows) than for general expenses. The group also noted that MMF members must meet one-on-one with potential donors for the best results.

Regarding an endowment, the committee noted the desire of many donors to see money go to immediate needs – although other donors might welcome the 25% state income tax credit available for donations to a community foundation endowment. The group agreed that it would be good to offer the endowment options when speaking to donors.

The group tentatively proposed a fund raising effort for 2017, focusing on money for bringing electrical and phone service into the Mill and/or building a levee to protect the Inn and Stable from flooding.

Board members noted that Mill visitors and others sometimes assume that the restoration is being paid for by taxes. deNeui moved to prepare and posts signs stating that the Motor Mill Foundation is a non-profit organization supported by donations and grants, and normally does not receive tax dollars. Lenth seconded. Carried.

MEASURED DRAWINGS

The Foundation has received measured drawings done by students of Anna Andrzejewski at the U-W/Madison school of architecture. The board discussed getting a set of drawings laminated for public display, and perhaps having copies available for sale.

MOTOR MILL MEMORIES REVIEW

Joleen Jansen has the video from the Sept. 28 memories luncheon at Motor. She will make copies.

Marge Costigan of Elkader sent a letter that apologized for not being able to attend, related a few of her memories, and included a donation of \$100.

ICE/SMOKEHOUSE & COOPERAGE ROOFS

deNeui is seeking bids for shingles to repair the Ice House and Cooperage roofs. It is hoped that Gary Goyette and an Amish crew can complete the Ice House yet this fall. Dean Refle has agreed to provide a tractor and wagon for hauling away old roofing materials.

HERITAGE DAYS REVIEW

Morine noted that October 8 was busiest day ever at the Mill, with more than 100 visitors.

There also were many visitors and some merchandise sales at the MMF table at Osborne.

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS – 3-YEAR TERMS

Morine moved to nominate David Beck, Bob Bente, Ken Zichal, John Nikolai, Jo deNeui, Jane Metcalf, and Chris Schoen to serve 3-year terms on the Motor Mill Foundation board of directors. Stone seconded. There were no other nominations. Carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS – 1-YEAR TERMS

Morine moved that the current slate of officers – president, John Nikolai; vice-president, Jon deNeui; secretary, Larry Stone; and treasurer, Chuck Morine – be elected for another year. Lenth seconded. There were no other nominations. Carried

THANK-YOU LETTERS

Nikolai has sent letters of thanks to Chris Grau of Grau Logs and Lumber and to Dean Franzen of ProBuild to acknowledge their support in providing materials for Motor Mill Historic Site restoration.

DISCUSSION OF SILT TESTING IN BASEMENT

Chris Schoen, who has recently retired as a professional archeologist, has proposed using a Seymour bucket auger to drill a number of test holes in the silt in the basement to determine the likelihood of there being buried artifacts. This would help expedite the process of deciding how the silt could be removed. The procedure would require approval from the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO.)

Schoen moved to submit a letter to SHPO outlining the project and requesting approval. Lenth seconded. Carried.

POLICY ON NAMES TO PLACE ON DONOR BOARDS

It has been the custom to put a plaque with the donor's name on a recognition board whenever someone gives \$200 or more. There are three boards with these categories: Motor Mill and Cooperage Windows; Motor Mill Bridge Capital Fund Drive; Motor Mill, Cooperage, and Inn Roofs and Chimneys.

Morine moved that future donors to the same project would not receive a second plaque, but that they could receive a plaque for a donation to a different campaign. Lenth seconded. Carried.

UPDATES

MILL ROOF REPAIRS

deNeui has received a bid of not more than \$2,500 from Siebright Construction of Postville to: repair missing or damaged shingles on the Mill; install fall protection anchors on the ridge; and individually cement down asphalt shingle tabs. The work can be scheduled in the next two weeks. deNeui moved to approve the work. Morine seconded. Carried.

TRRC

deNeui reported on the October 4 TRRC meeting, where there was a presentation by MSA Professional Services on using a proposed “story map” website with interactive mapping of attractions and resources. The estimated cost was \$5,000.

The TRRC board agreed to ask Northeast Iowa RC&D if the concept could be used with existing personnel and materials.

BASEMENT POST

Lenth reported that volunteers on October 18 replaced a deteriorating support post in the Mill basement. Other posts will be checked for deterioration.

Nikolai suggested that basement posts replaced in the future should be put on rock bases to raise them above the level of some flooding and silt deposition.

ADJOURNMENT

Stone moved to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. Morine seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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