

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

DRAFT

March 21, 2017

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Other members present were Lee Lenth, Larry Stone, Chuck Morine, Jane Metcalf, Jon deNeui, and Ken Zichal. Conservation Board naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

Agenda

Lenth moved to approve the agenda as printed. Zichal seconded. Carried.

Minutes

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the Feb. 21, 2016 meeting as printed. Lenth seconded. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Morine presented the following financial report:

March 2017 Treasurer's Report

Feb. 21 - beginning balance	\$8,041.28
Receipts	
Feb. 23 – donation – Eric Boehm	\$100.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$100.00
Expenses	
Feb. 22 – Alpine Communications	\$14.45
Marc. 15 – Allam Clayton Elec	\$39.19
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$53.64
CURRENT BALANCE (Mar. 21, 2017)	\$8,087.64

CONSERVATION RESERVE

Feb. 22, 2017 balance brought forward (negative)	(\$42,179.81)
Deposits-	
Donation – Kay Connelly	\$500.00
March 21, 2017 balance carried forward (negative)	(\$41,679.81)

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

Morine has discussed our liability insurance coverage with Tom Gifford, who advised that our policy is adequate, given the Foundation's existing coverage as a volunteer group under the umbrella of Clayton County.

OLD BUSINESS

REPORT OF VISIONING SUBCOMMITTEE

Harkrader showed the board a draft of three display banners she is preparing for use at conferences, exhibits, fairs, and other events.

Nikolai said the visioning subcommittee suggested the use of an introductory video at Motor to set the scene and give visitors some background about the site. Metcalf has briefly discussed the idea with Joleen Jansen, who was interested. Nikolai said the board has been pleased with Jansen's past work – but we probably should get at least two proposals.

The board discussed what the video might include, and how to get proposals. Zichal agreed to serve on a subcommittee with the original visioning subcommittee members (Metcalf, Nikolai, deNeui, Lenth.) Stone moved to approve the formation of the subcommittee. Zichal seconded. Carried. The group will meet on April 21.

BASEMENT SILT SAMPLING

Nikolai and Chris Schoen have completed 8 of 16 probes of the silt in the Mill basement. Schoen has been keeping detailed records of the type of soil, depth, and artifacts. So far, the only items found have been a few square nails.

The board discussed future plans to remove silt from the basement, and how to keep the building secure when the basement arch coverings need to be removed for access.

IOWAN AD

The board briefly discussed whether to place an ad in The Iowan magazine, as we did last year. Members questioned the cost and benefits. No action was taken.

VISIONING PLAN

The board reviewed the priority list prepared by the visioning committee. Nikolai noted that the Clayton County Foundation for the Future grant of \$533.87 for security cameras has been approved, although we have not yet received the money.

The first projects this season will include completing shingle replacement on the smokehouse and cooperage roofs, replacement of basement support posts, continuing work on basement silt, and replacing the rotten beam on the fifth floor.

Harkrader said we have not yet received any applicants for the Silos and Smokestacks internship. Work on educational programs, and being able to keep the Mill open every weekend may depend on whether we have an intern.

The board discussed plans for the old turbine, which will have to be moved when we put electrical service into the Mill. Lenth noted that there's an old turbine at the site of a former mill along the Turkey River at Eldorado.

deNeui discussed the need to build a dike or levee to protect the Inn and Stable from flooding, and explained the complex engineering issues of its design.

GREAT PLACES

The board briefly discussed whether we should apply for Iowa Great Places status. It was agreed that, as part of the Turkey River Recreational Corridor, we already could be considered a "Great Place," so no more action is needed.

IT TAKES AN IOWAN

Silos and Smokestacks has asked if the Motor Mill Foundation would be willing to host a large "It Takes an Iowan" exhibit at the Clayton County Fair or elsewhere. After viewing photos of the exhibit, the board agreed that we do not have the volunteer staff or space for it.

RCD HISTORICAL CONFERENCE

Morine received information about a "Preserving, Enhancing and Promoting Northeast Iowa's Historical Treasures" conference sponsored by NE Iowa RC&D. The meeting is May 9 at Upper Iowa University.

Stone moved to pay the \$40 registration fee for Metcalf to attend. deNeui seconded. Carried.

NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be April 18 at 7 p.m. at the Osborne Conservation Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Lenth moved to adjourn the meeting at 9 p.m. Stone seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

Motor Mill Foundation