

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

DRAFT

April 18, 2017

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Other members present were Lee Lenth, Larry Stone, Chuck Morine, Jane Metcalf, David Beck, Chris Schoen, and Ken Zichal. Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

Agenda

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

Minutes

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2017 meeting as printed. Lenth seconded. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Morine presented the following financial report:

March 2017 Treasurer's Report

March 21 - beginning balance	\$8,087.64
Receipts - none	
Expenses	
March 22 – Alpine Communications	\$14.45
March 27 – Jansen Products, web hosting	\$171.00
April 17 – Allam Clayton Elec	\$44.41
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$229.86
CURRENT BALANCE (April 18, 2017)	\$7,857.78

CONSERVATION RESERVE

March 21, 2017 balance brought forward (negative)	(\$41,679.81)
Deposits- Iowa Room print sales	\$115.00
March 21, 2017 balance carried forward (negative)	(\$41,564.81)

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

OLD BUSINESS

BASEMENT SILT

Chris Schoen reported on his auger testing of silt in the Mill basement. With Nikolai's assistance, he drilled 15 test holes as much as 13 feet deep. He encountered a limestone ledge at a depth of 27-50 inches on the road side of the basement. The probes hit limestone at a few other sites, as well. There were very few artifacts, other than some nails, wire, and pieces of glass.

Schoen noted the types of soil, stratification of silt layers, and obvious organic content of the sediment. He is preparing a report on the tests to send to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). If we do not hear objections from SHPO within 30 days of their receipt of the report, we can assume it's OK to proceed with our silt removal plans.

Nikolai noted, however, that we should replace the basement support posts before removing the silt.

The board thanked Schoen and Nikolai for their work on the archeological studies.

PENNY AT THE PUMP

Nikolai has applied for Motor Mill to participate in the "Penny at the Pump" promotion to receive a donation from the Garnavillo Speede Shoppe. Details are pending.

SMOKE/ICEHOUSE AND COOPERAGE ROOFS

Work on shingling the smokehouse is nearly complete, except for the peak and ridge caps. Tentative plans are to begin work on the Cooperage on April 24, if crews are available.

Meuser Lumber has agreed to rent us a lift for four days for \$800, then to make a \$400 donation to the Motor Mill Foundation.

CLAYTON COUNTY FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE GRANTS

The Motor Mill Foundation has received a \$533.876 grant from the Clayton County Foundation for the Future to help pay for surveillance cameras for Motor Mill. We also received a \$500 grant to help pay for a grinding quern to use for demonstrations at the Mill.

NEW BUSINESS

TRAFFIC COUNTER

Nikolai and Stone replaced the traffic counter on the Motor Mill bridge on April 4. The count as of April 18 was 634 vehicles.

SILOS AND SMOKESTACKS ANNUAL MEETING

Harkrader and Pollock attended the Silos and Smokestacks annual meeting at Heartland Acres at Independence on April 3. We were given material to have at Motor Mill to help explain Silos and Smokestacks to visitors.

2017 TOUR SEASON

Harkrader said we will be able to have the Motor Mill Historic Site open every weekend this season, thanks in part to a Silos and Smokestacks grant to hire a summer intern. Kylee Johansen of Elgin, who is a geoscience and anthropology student at the University of Iowa, will start work May 15.

Harkrader is preparing the summer tour guide schedule for volunteers. She asked board members to let her know as soon as possible which days they are NOT available.

VOLUNTEER WORK DAYS

Nikolai said volunteer work days will begin soon. deNeui will coordinate the plans.

UPDATES

Metcalf will attend an RC&D historic preservation conference on May 9 in Fayette. The board concurred with her decision to attend sessions on promotion and marketing, and funding

The board again discussed whether to develop a new sign for inside the Mill to encourage donations. Stone agreed to photograph the current sign and send an image to board members to facilitate future discussion.

Nikolai reminded board members of the April 26 work day at the Mill from 1:30-3:30 p.m. with volunteer students from Central Community School.

Pollock noted that an arrest has been made in conjunction with March 24 vandalism at the Mill.

NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be May 15 at 7 p.m. at the Osborne Conservation Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Zichal moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Lenth seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

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