

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

**DRAFT**

Nov. 21, 2017

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2017, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Other members present were Larry Stone, Chuck Morine, Jon deNeui, and Bob Bente. Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Jane Metcalf arrived about 7:25.

**Agenda**

Nikolai asked to have these items added to the agenda: grants through Alpine; stone mason communication; marketing Motor. Pollock asked to add a discussion of interpretive panels. Stone moved to approve the agenda with additions. deNeui seconded. Carried.

**Minutes**

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the Oct. 17, 2017, meeting as printed. deNeui seconded. Carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Morine presented the following financial report:

November 2017 Treasurer's Report

Oct. 17 - beginning balance	\$10,034.57
Receipts	
Oct. 20 – donation	\$50.00
Nov. 3 – donation	\$20.00
Nov. 20 – donations (bridge lighting)	\$162.00
Merchandise sales	\$135.00
Nov. 20 – donation, Harold & Deanna Krambeer	\$1,000.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$1,367.00

## EXPENSES

Nov. 6 – Jansen Products LLC, web design	\$675.00
Nov. 16 – Alpine Communications	\$17.46
Nov. 16 – Allam. Clayton Elec.	\$40.10
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$732.56

CURRENT BALANCE (July 18, 2017) \$10,669.01

## CONSERVATION RESERVE

Oct. 17, 2017 balance brought forward (negative) (\$41,076.70)

### *Expenses*

Gary Goyette – Cooperage roof repair \$5,751.16

Nov. 21, 2017 Balance Carried Forward (negative) (\$46,827.86)

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### COOPERAGE ROOF

Nikolai reported that Gary Goyette has finished the repairs and shingling of the Cooperage roof. Nikolai has contacted Marc Kuempel Masonry, who has estimated it will cost \$1,450 to rebuild the chimneys. Kuempel will do the work when weather permits.

### ARCHEOLOGICAL REPORT

Chris Schoen has completed the archeological report for his soil probes in the basement. Nikolai and deNeui are reviewing the document.

## 2018 TOUR DATES

Harkrader has submitted our 2018 tour calendar to the Clayton County Development Group, which in turn will share the calendar with at least 21 venues. Open dates are each Saturday and Sunday afternoon from May 26 through Sept. 2, then on alternate weekends through Heritage Days.

## BRIDGE LIGHTING EVENT

An estimated 85 to 100 people attended the Motor bridge holiday lights celebration on Saturday, Nov. 18. The board agreed that the event was worthwhile and should be repeated next year. Metcalf there were several thousand Facebook views of the event, both before and after. The Littleport fireman noticed an increase in attendance at their annual soup supper that evening, and suggested we coordinate dates again next year.

## NEW BUSINESS

### QUERN

The demonstration quern has arrived, and was available for people to use at the Mill during the bridge lighting open house. The grain and resulting flour do not seem to be feeding properly, however. Harkrader has been in touch with the manufacturer to attempt to resolve the problem.

The board discussed whether school desks or small tables and chairs would be available for children to use for coloring projects when families visit the Mill.

### DONATION IDEAS

The board discussed the need to solicit donations when people are considering year-end gifts to charities. The group agreed that requests for money would be best received if we explain specific uses for the funds. Examples include: rebuilding the Cooperage chimneys, reducing the bridge debt, producing interpretive panels, replacing basement support posts. Nikolai, Metcalf, and Stone agreed to prepare a list of potential donors to contact.

Stone moved to pay Jansen Products \$18 to put a "donate" button on the home page of the website. Metcalf seconded. Carried.

### INTERNSHIP PROJECTS

Pollock asked for ideas for projects to include when she submits a grant application to pat for an intern in 2018. Suggestions included: tour guide; Grau savanna interpretive signs; newsletter; a "history trunk" with Motor artifacts; planning regular events (music, classes or demonstrations); coordinating volunteers to lead wildflower walks or youth days; interviews with people who can provide historical information.

## ITEMS TO SELL TO MARKET MOTOR MILL

The board discussed the potential to build awareness and market Motor Mill by selling mugs, key chains, or other items. Morine noted that merchandise sales at the Mill have been slow, but Metcalf suggested that our increasing online and social media presence could boost sales if virtual visitors have an option to make a purchase.

## UPDATES

Nikolai reported that Grau Logs and Lumber is not interested in trying to salvage walnuts and other trees that need to be removed to avoid encroaching on the roof of the Cooperage.

deNeui has been in touch with Alysworth House Movers of Wadena about providing help and equipment to replace basement posts in the Mill.

Pollock said the county secondary roads department might consider seal coating Galaxy Road from Communia to Motor.

Morine said it might be worthwhile to produce more of the wooden Motor Mill cutouts that originally were designed by Ed Olson. More note cards with the John Mellinger design also are needed.

Nikolai urged the board to consider applying for a grant from Aureon, which is available through Alpine Communications. Metcalf agreed to investigate.

## NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be Dec. 19, at 7 p.m. at the Osborne Conservation Center.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

Several board members stayed later to review drafts of interpretive panels being prepared by RC&D.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

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