

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

DRAFT

Dec. 19, 2017

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Other members present were Ken Zichal, Jane Metcalf, David Beck, Lee Lenth, Larry Stone, Chuck Morine, Jon deNeui, and Bob Bente. Conservation Board naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Ron Kaiser was a guest.

Agenda

Nikolai asked to add an item about the surveillance cameras to the agenda. Zichal moved to approve the agenda as amended. deNeui seconded. Carried.

Minutes

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the Nov. 21, 2017, meeting as printed. deNeui seconded. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Morine presented the following financial report:

December 2017 Treasurer's Report

Nov. 21 - beginning balance \$10,669.01

No receipts

EXPENSES

Dec. 15 – Alpine Communications \$16.56

Nov. 16 – Allam. Clayton Elec. \$46.73

TOTAL EXPENSES \$63.29

CURRENT BALANCE (Dec. 19, 2017) \$10,605.72

CONSERVATION RESERVE

Nov. 21, 2017 balance brought forward (negative) (\$46,827.86)

No expenses or receipts

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

UPPER MISSISSIPPI GAMING GRANT

Nikolai has completed and submitted the final audit for the grant to repair the Cooperage and Smokehouse roofs. He will procure signs to place on or near the buildings to acknowledge the grant.

ARCHEOLOGICAL REPORT

Lee Lenth agreed to review the archeological report prepared by Chris Schoen for his soil probes in the basement. Nikolai and deNeui already have reviewed the document.

FINALIZE INTERPRETIVE PANELS

Stone, Beck, Harkrader, Jenna Pollock and others have been working with the RC&D to complete work on interpretive panels for Motor. Several MMF board members offered additional critiques.

NEW BUSINESS

VIDEO INTRODUCTION FOR 2018 TOURS

Nikolai asked for volunteers to prepare scripts for a video we hope to show before tours in 2018. Topics could include: mill construction, dam & water power, turbine vs. water wheel, Cooperage, smoke/ice house/stable, mill stones, making barrels, wheat production, grinding wheat to make flour, mill production, etc. Nikolai asked board members to present outlines at the January 16 board meeting.

Harkrader agreed to send links of sample videos to board members.

Lenth said he will investigate the status of an old mill turbine at Eldorado.

WALNUT TREES OVERHANGING COOPERAGE

The Conservation Board staff has cut down several small walnut trees that were overhanging the Cooperage and Smokehouse roofs and jeopardizing the life of the new cedar shingles.

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

The board discussed the need for fund raising, both for the Foundation for immediate expenses, and for the Motor Mill Endowment under the Clayton County Foundation for the Future for longer term needs.

Zichal said that his wife, Fran, may be able to come to the February meeting to share her expertise.

BASEMENT SUPPORT POSTS

deNeui has remained in contact with Alysworth House Movers of Wadena to arrange help for replacing the basement support posts.

ALPINE GRANT

Nikolai asked for a volunteer to write a grant application through Alpine Communications to apply for a \$1,400 grant from the Aureon Charity Grant Program to replace the chimneys on the Cooperage. Stone agreed to fill out the application.

MOTOR MILL PHOTOS

A winter night photo of Motor Mill, the bridge lights, and a starry sky, taken by Josh Funk of Elkader, was printed in the current issue of OUR IOWA magazine. The board discussed how to approach photographers to ask for permission to sell Motor images on the website or elsewhere.

UPDATES

Stone reported that the County Conservation Board is moving ahead with engineering studies of a trail from highway 13, along Grandview Road, across private land, and to Motor by way of Galaxy Road.

deNeui suggested that we need to look for ways to inspire people to return to Motor Mill for more than one visit to learn more about the history.

The board briefly discussed the location and monitoring of the surveillance cameras.

NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be Jan. 16, 2018, at 7 p.m. at the Osborne Conservation Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Zichal moved to adjourn the meeting about 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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