

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

DRAFT

February 20, 2018

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2018, at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church office basement in Elkader. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. Other members present were Ken Zichal, Jane Metcalf, Lee Lenth, Larry Stone, Chuck Morine, Jon deNeui, Chris Schoen, and Bob Bente. Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

AGENDA

Stone asked to add an item about a possible display at Citizens State Bank in Strawberry Point. Nikolai asked to add an item about a Josh Funk offer to donate photo proceeds. Stone moved to approve the agenda as amended. Lenth seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the Jan. 16, 2017, meeting as printed. Schoen seconded. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Morine presented the following financial report:

February 2018 Treasurer's Report

Jan. 16 - beginning balance	\$21,725.80
Receipts	
Jan. 19 – donation – Allam. Clayton Elec.	\$250.00
Jan. 29 – note cards sales	\$10.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$260.00

EXPENSES

Jan. 17 – Signs n Frames – roof signs	\$35.00
Heritage Printing – note cards	\$176.30
Alpine Communications	\$16.55
Jan. 29 – ETAB – tax preparation	\$175.00
West Bend Mutual – insurance	\$250.00
Feb. 16 – Allam. Clayton Elec.	\$39.69
Alpine Communications	\$16.65
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$703.19

CURRENT BALANCE (Feb. 20, 2018) \$21,282.61

CONSERVATION RESERVE

Dec. 19, 2017 balance brought forward (negative)	(\$46,674.86)
Receipts	
Iowa Room – note cards	\$15.00
Jan. 16, 2018 Balance Carried Forward (negative)	(\$46,659.86)

Bente moved to accept the financial report. Schoen seconded. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

FUND RAISING

Zichal said that Fran Zichal should be able to come to the April 17 meeting to give advice on fund raising.

MILL BASEMENT

deNeui reported that Alyswoth House Movers have completed replacement of six posts in the basement, but frozen ground has delayed work on the remaining two. After the work is complete, we will begin a silt excavation plan.

INTRODUCTORY VIDEO

Zichal, Beck, Nikolai, and Harkrader have prepared a draft of a script for an introductory video. Zichal asked board members to review the script and offer suggestions.

INTERPRETIVE PANELS

Pollock reported that RC&D staff has completed work on the interpretive panels, which have been ordered and should arrive within a few weeks

MARKETING OF MOTOR MILL

Harkrader and Pollock have applied to be part of the “Passport to Your National Parks Cancellation Stamp” program. Harkrader noted that the program has been very successful at Effigy Mounds, bringing many new visitors who might otherwise not have been aware of the site. We should learn by the end of February if the Motor Mill Historic Site has been accepted.

Metcalf met with Shawna at Rivals in Strawberry Point to get examples of t-shirts, mugs, refrigerator magnets, key chains, and other items we might be able to sell to market Motor Mill. The board discussed whether more stylish t-shirts might generate more sales. Morine agreed to contact our current supplier, Esser’s Clothing in Guttenberg, to learn what items are available.

Harkrader has investigated the feasibility of ordering flour in custom packages, or custom flour bags. She also inquired about a custom puzzle featuring Motor Mill.

The board agreed to seek more information, but took no action.

Josh Funk of Elkader has offered to donate 50% of his sales of Motor Mill photos during March to the Motor Mill Foundation. Zichal moved to accept the offer. Metcalf seconded, with the suggestion that Funk’s photos and the donation could be featured on the website. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

LEVEE TO PROTECT THE INN

Nikolai and deNeui met with Jon Biedeman of Fehr Graham Engineering to discuss the idea of building a levee to protect the Inn from flooding. deNeui also has had preliminary contact with V. J. Engineering.

deNeui noted there would need to be extensive consultation with the Conservation Board, the adjoining landowners, the Iowa DNR, the Corps of Engineers, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the National Park Service. The design and costs are uncertain.

The board discussed a few other options, such as: temporary, inflatable levees; moving the Inn; modifying the Inn’s lower level to allow it to be flooded without damage; the costs and benefits of protecting the Inn; the costs to restore the Inn once it is protected.

2017 VISITATION REPORT

Harkrader distributed a report on Motor Mill Historic Site visitation for 2017. Highlights included: 1,507 registered visitors; 1,297 volunteer hours; 16,250 vehicles across the bridge; the Art Show; a bridge lighting event; Motor Motor 5k; a planned youth STEM event; increased social media and website presence.

DISPLAY AT CITIZENS STATE BANK

Abbie Thompson, of Citizens State Bank in Strawberry Point, contacted Stone to ask if the Motor Mill Foundation would like to have a display at the bank during March. The board wholeheartedly agreed, with thanks to the bank. Stone will work with Harkrader and others to arrange the display. If possible, it might include Josh Funk artwork to promote his donation offer.

UPDATES

Pollock invited the Board to attend the next Clayton County Conservation Board meeting to discuss how the two groups can better communicate and cooperate. The meeting will be at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13, at the Osborne Conservation Center.

Pollock said an Iowa Public Television crew will attend the Motor Motor 5K on March 17. She hopes to have the new interpretive panels installed by then.

NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be March 20, 2018, at 7 p.m. at the Osborne Conservation Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Lenth moved to adjourn the meeting about 9 p.m. Schoen seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

Motor Mill Foundation