

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

DRAFT

March 20, 2018

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at Osborne Conservation Center. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Other members present were Lee Lenth, Larry Stone, Chuck Morine, Jon deNeui, Chris Schoen, David Beck, and Bob Bente. Conservation Board naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

AGENDA

Harkrader asked to postpone Fran Zichal's presentation until April. Nikolai asked to add an item about Earth Day volunteers from Central School. Stone moved to approve the agenda with those changes. Morine seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

deNeui moved to approve the minutes of the Feb. 20, 2018, meeting as printed. Schoen seconded. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Morine presented the following treasurer's report:

February 2018 Treasurer's Report

Feb. 20 - beginning balance (corrected) \$21,282.73

Receipts – none

EXPENSES

March. 16 – Allam. Clayton Elec. \$39.42

Alpine Communications \$16.55

TOTAL EXPENSES \$55.97

CURRENT BALANCE (March 20, 2018) \$21,226.76

Lenth moved to accept the treasurer's report. Schoen seconded. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

AUREON GRANT

Stone is preparing an application to the Aureon Charity Grant Program requesting \$1,450 to help replace the chimney on the Cooperage. He is working with Alpine Communications, and hopes to have the application submitted before the March 31 deadline.

INTRODUCTORY VIDEO

The board discussed the proposed video to introduce visitors to Motor, and agreed that it needs to be kept short – no more than 15 minutes. Stone agreed to work on editing the draft script. The video committee – Beck, Nikolai, Jane Metcalf, and Harkrader – also may meet to revise the draft.

Board members noted that the drone video by Beck would make excellent footage for the video. Beck has reported more than 17,000 Facebook views of the video.

MILL BASEMENT POSTS

deNeui reported that eight basement posts have been replaced. Alysworth House Movers has submitted a bill for (AMOUNT?) Four more posts adjacent to the road side of the basement will need replacement, along with the support beams that have rotted where they were laid on the wall.

deNeui is devising a plan to begin excavation of silt from the basement, once we've received clearance from the State Historic Preservation Office. SHPO is receiving the archeological report submitted by Schoen.

The board discussed the need to open the passage between the basement wall and the road to allow air flow and water drainage.

INTERPRETIVE PANELS

Harkrader reported that new interpretive panels have not yet been delivered, although the mounting bases have arrived.

MARKETING OF MOTOR MILL

Morine and Jane Metcalf met recently with Matt Esser at Esser's clothing in Guttenberg. They ordered 24 soft-fabric t-shirts in a variety of styles and sizes.

The board briefly discussed making t-shirts available for participants in the 2019 Motor Motor 5k run.

SILOS INTERNSHIP

The amount available from Silos and Smokestacks this year for the intern grant may be only \$2,720, rather than \$3,000.

Kiley Johansen has agreed to return for the 2018 season, starting May 14. She will work as a tour guide at Motor most weekends. Johansen also will prepare a “trunk” with artifacts relating to Motor that can be taken to schools and other interpretive programs.

Her duties may include managing updates and posts on Facebook, and working with Jane Metcalf to offer at STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) educational program at Motor.

PASSPORT TO YOUR NATIONAL PARKS

Harkrader has not yet been notified if our application to be part of the “Passport to Your National Parks Cancellation Stamp” program has been approved.

NEW BUSINESS

PLANS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Harkrader distributed a sign-up sheet for volunteer guides for the 2018 season. She also said that two groups have requested special tours. A group of about 40 RV campers plan to come at 10 a.m. on May 18. A “Singles in Agriculture” group of about 30 wants a tour on July 21.

Lenth suggested that we should inform visitors they can rent period costumes from the Elkader Opera House Players for photographic sessions.

Lenth said the annual Whistlin’ Bit Trail Ride will follow the Turkey River between Elkader and Motor in early October.

PUBLICITY FOR TOURS

Harkrader will bring tour date posters to the April meeting for board members to distribute. Harkrader, Johansen, and others will post the tour information regularly on Facebook. The tour calendar also will be on the website.

EARTH DAY VOLUNTEERS

Nikolai was contacted by Olivia Backes of the Central Community High School “Green Team.” The group has offered to volunteer at Motor on April 23, the day after Earth Day. The board agreed that would should accept the offer, and ask the volunteers to help clean in preparation for the visitor season.

The board also discussed the need to clean more on the second and third floors to reduce the clutter by organizing historical artifacts, building materials, and carpentry tools and equipment.

NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be April 17, 2018, at 7 p.m. at the Osborne Conservation Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Lenth moved to adjourn the meeting about 8:36 p.m. Schoen seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

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