

Motor Mill Foundation  
Minutes  
March 19, 2013

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, March 19, 2013. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other board members present were Jon deNeui, Tom Gifford, Chuck Morine, Lee Lenth, Betty Buchholz, Les Klink, Jeanette Muller, and Larry Stone. Clayton County Conservation Board director Tim Engelhardt and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Dean and Sandy Refle were guests.

**MINUTES**

Morine moved to accept the minutes of the February meeting as distributed. Lenth seconded. Carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Chuck Morine submitted the following report:

*Motor Mill Foundation*

Feb. 19, 2013 - beginning balance	\$7,086.55
Receipts	
Thompson Mill Questers, donation	\$50
Larry Stone photos	\$65
TOTAL	\$115
Expenses	
Ellen Collins, supplies	\$39.44
Ellen Collins, banner	\$67.58
Allamakee-Clayton Elec	\$32.10
TOTAL	\$139.12
March 19, 2013 balance	\$7,062.43
<i>CONSERVATION RESERVE FUND</i>	
Feb. 19, 2013 (negative) balance	(\$70,944.59)
Deposits	
Seago – Moss print	\$225
March 19, 2013 (negative) balance	(\$70,719.59)

*CAPITAL FUND*

Feb. 19, 2013 balance carried forward \$1,120.04

Deposits:

Landis	\$100
Duwe-Petersen	\$150
Engelhardt, IMO Eno	\$20
Engelhardt, IMO Schmidt	\$30
Stone	\$920.10

TOTAL DEPOSITS \$1,220.10

March 19, 2013 balance forward \$2,340.14

**MOTOR MILL BRIDGE**

Engelhardt completed FEMA paperwork. We should receive another \$2,600 for administrative work. FEMA required placement of a bronze plaque on the bridge. It has been approved and ordered. Morine moved to pay \$491 for the plaque. deNeui seconded. Carried.

**MOTOR MILL TRAIL**

Engelhardt has begun discussions with Deb (Stence) Thomas and her renter.

**STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN**

Donations continue to come in slowly. The campaign had raised about \$34,308. We need approximately \$90,000 more.

**MOTOR MILL BRIDGE GRAND OPENING AND CELEBRATION**

The event is Saturday, May 4, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Plans so far include booths from partners in the bridge project, food available for sale from the Elkader Lions Club, a program at 1 p.m., and a slide program by Marlys Svendsen on the Motor Mill Historic Site. Stone will prepare a slide program on the bridge construction.

**PROMOTING MOTOR MILL**

Nikolai encouraged others to continue to seek speaking engagements. Stone and Marlys Svendsen will give a program to the State Historical Society in Iowa City on April 10.

Nikolai has received two bids for shirts to be worn by tour guides. Embroidered polo shirts from The Stitchin' Post would be about \$43. Polo shirts from Esser's printed with the Travel Guide image would be about \$32 to \$48, depending on the size of the photo and the number of shirts ordered. The board discussed the need for official shirts, or perhaps vests, but took no action.

Nikolai noted that Darla Kelchen has made posters from the Iowa Travel Guide cover image, and suggested that the posters might be good to use in displays at the Mill, Osborne, and community events.

The Conservation Board is reprinting the Motor Mill brochures with a new map showing the new bridge.

The Motor Mill Foundation had a float with our new banner in the Elkader St. Patrick's Day parade.

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Nikolai urged members to contact people to be on the board, to work at the Mill, and to help with tours. There will be training for tour guides before the tour season begins.

### **REVIEW LONG RANGE VISION PLAN**

Engelhardt distributed copies of the vision plan, with revisions as discussed at the February meeting.

### **DEVELOP A BUSINESS PLAN**

Nikolai and deNeui have been working with Darla Kelchen to develop a business plan. Nikolai would welcome other volunteers to help.

### **ORAL HISTORY NAMES LIST**

The board discussed holding another session to invite people to share their Motor Mill memories. Members were asked to begin compiling a list of names. Adjoining landowners might be willing to allow board members to review their abstracts.

### **GOLDEN SILOS AWARD LUNCHEON**

Engelhardt, Harkrader, Nikolai, Stone, deNeui, and Collins plan to attend the Silos and Smokestacks award luncheon on April 3 in Waterloo.

Visitors to the Silos and Smokestacks website can vote on the People's Choice award between March 18 and April 2. Members were urged to help spread the word to potential voters.

### **SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **TURKEY RIVER RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR**

Engelhardt said TRRC will sponsor a Turkey Float at the Motor Mill bridge grand opening on May 4. Other summer events will include a triathlon and Safari activity for kids.

## FACILITIES

deNeui noted our financial dilemma in work that needs to be done, but no money available until we finish paying off the debt for the bridge.

deNeui said we need to acquire plywood to temporarily cover the floor in front of the downstream door on the Mill. He is looking for affordable sources. The project needs to be completed before the May 4 grand opening.

deNeui and Rafe Koopman are discussing the logistics of removing and hauling away silt from the basement. We will need electrical power to the Mill to operate the conveyor. It could cost \$2,000 to install the wiring.

Lenth reported that high water in early March washed out some dirt around the planks that were covering the upstream arches in the Mill basement.

The temporary coverings on the roofs of the Ice House and the Cooperage so far have held up well.

Old bricks are still needed to replace the chimneys on the Cooperage.

## GROUND

Engelhardt received a notice that we need to renew our membership in the Iowa Museum Association. deNeui moved to pay the \$35 dues. Morine seconded. Carried. (Note: Morine subsequently determined that we have paid at the \$75 membership level in previous years. He will pay that amount, unless board members object.)

## COMMUNICATIONS

Nikolai has continued to write thank-yous to donors.

## EDUCATION

Buchholz found several Clayton County Register articles about the Motor Mill School.

Nadine West, former curator at Montauk, has access to a collection of letters between Governor Larrabee and James Crosby, who were good friends. Nikolai hopes to arrange for board members to examine those letters.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, at Osborne.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Nikolai adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry A. Stone, secretary