

MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION

Minutes

DRAFT

May 17, 2016

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Motor Mill Historic Site on Tuesday, May 17, 2016. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order about 6:02 p.m., after the board a prospective tour guides had toured the site. Other board members present were Chuck Morine, Larry Stone, Lee Lenth, Ivan Hardt, Jon deNeui, and Ken Zichal. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock, naturalist Abbey Harkrader, and intern Jessica Wegmann also attended. Ron Kaiser, David Beck, and Bob Bente were guests. (Did I miss any?)

AGENDA

Morine moved to approve the agenda as presented. deNeui seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Stone moved to approve the minutes of the April 19 meeting as distributed. Morine seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

April 19 beginning balance	\$8,610.88
----------------------------	------------

Receipts

April 20 – Silos & Smokestacks min-grant	\$500.00
--	----------

April 20 – Alan Nagel via Vanguard Charitable Trust	\$500.00
---	----------

May 16 – donations at Mill	\$197.00
----------------------------	----------

Donation – George Steinbron	\$120.00
-----------------------------	----------

Donation – Vanita M. Thomsen	\$100.00
------------------------------	----------

Merchandise sales	\$94.00
-------------------	---------

TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$1,511.00
-----------------------	-------------------

Expenses

April 21 – Jansen Products, web hosting	\$189.00
---	----------

April 21 – Upper Iowa Millwork, flooring tongue & groove	\$1,360.00
April 27 – Alpine Communications, phone	\$15.19
May 2 – Esser’s Menswear, merchandise	\$281.41
May 6 – Clayton County Conservation, flooring	\$1,188.00
May 6 – cash for change	\$40.00
May 6 - Allam-Clayton Elec	\$32.10
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,105.70

CURRENT BALANCE – MAY 17, 2016 \$7,016.18

CONSERVATION RESERVE (NO ACTIVITY)

April 20, 2016 balance brought forward (negative)	(\$45,648.69)
May 17, 2016 balance carried forward	(\$45,648.69)

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

Morine has received a letter from the Clayton County Fair Board asking that we pay \$80 for a booth at the fair. Nikolai will seek a clarification.

OLD BUSINESS

1 - COOPERAGE AND ICE HOUSE ROOFS

deNeui said we are waiting to proceed until we hear whether we receive a grant from the Dubuque Racing and Gaming Commission. That announcement should come in late May.

We have enough used bricks to repair the chimneys in the Cooperage. They were salvaged from a building in Strawberry Point. Gary Goyette will train Amish crews to install them.

2 – MILL ROOF – RECURRING PROBLEMS

deNeui reiterated that need to have missing shingles on the Mill roof replaced, and to have the contractor install anchors that workers can use to make future repairs.

3 – Upper Iowa Millworks completed milling the pine boards into tongue-and-groove flooring. Volunteers moved the flooring to the fifth floor on May 17. Volunteers will begin installing the flooring in the loft on May 24.

4 – STAT COUNTER ON BRIDGE

Stone reported that about 300 vehicles used the bridge from April 1-15. Another 1,652 vehicles used the bridge from April 15-May 17. Volunteers are asked to read the counter and note the date and results in the notebook beside the counter.

Pollock suggested that we compile a complete season of counts before we present the information to the Secondary Roads Department.

5 – TRAIL DISCUSSION

Pollock said the Conservation Board has agreed to an Iowa DOT proposal to install bike lanes along both sides of Highway 13 from Elkader to Grandview Road. The county's share of the cost is about \$70,000 per mile, or roughly \$120,000. Negotiations are continuing on whether the project could extend north to provide a link to the Pony Hollow Trail.

6 – PUBLICITY FOR MOTOR MILL

The first of three ads has appeared in The Iowan magazine. Others will be printed in July/August and September/October issues.

Motor Mill is the first listing on the Elkader page of "Trip Adviser."

The staff has been regularly updating the Motor Mill Facebook page.

Motor also is listed on "Experience the Mississippi River," and on Great River Road and Silos and Smokestacks sites.

We will be receiving a Great River Road National Scenic Byway sign soon.

Pollock will prepare an explanation to help Mill guides and visitors understand the significance of the Great River Road National Scenic Byway designation and the Silos and Smokestacks Partner status.

It was suggested that there should be a sign at Motor directing people to the restrooms.

NEW BUSINESS

1 - MEMORIES OF MOTOR

Lenth suggested that we need to interview Laverne Kuehl.

We hope to plan a Motor Mill Memories event to invite the public to share Motor Mill stories sometime this summer.

2 – WEBSITE UPDATES

Wegmann has been working to update the Motor Mill website and to make it more friendly for mobile devices.

3 – NEWSLETTER

Wegmann is preparing a Milling Around newsletter with articles on the town's history, the structures, living memories, and updates on the Mill restoration.

The board discussed the origin of the name "Motor." deNeui said the term in the mid-1800s meant a source of energy, movement, and productivity – which probably was the image John Thompson was trying to promote.

4 – INTERPRETIVE PANELS

Pollock is exploring grant possibilities to help develop an "around the room" timeline at Motor. The idea came from Heartland Acres at Independence.

NEXT MEETING –

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 21, at 7 p.m., at the Osborne Conservation Center.

ADJOURNMENT – Lenth moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. Zichal seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary