

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

**DRAFT**

July 17, 2018

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, July 17, 2018, at Osborne Conservation Center. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Other members present were David Beck, Larry Stone, Chuck Morine, Jon deNeui, and Bob Bente. Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock, naturalist Abbey Harkrader, and intern Kiley Johansen also attended.

**AGENDA**

Morine asked to add two items to the agenda: benches and birdhouses built by Roger Buchholz, and a more detailed treasurer's report. Morine moved to approve the agenda as amended. deNeui seconded. Carried.

**MINUTES**

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2018, meeting as distributed. deNeui seconded. Carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Morine presented the following treasurer's report:

June 19 - beginning balance \$22,632.84

**RECEIPTS**

June 26 – Nikolai, scrap sales \$100.00

June 26 – donations \$69.00

    Merchandise sales \$45.00

    Passports \$10.00

    Benches \$140.00

June 27 – Stone donation, Klink Memorial \$100.00

July 2 – donations \$29.00

    Merchandise sales \$75.00

    Passport sales \$10.00

July 9 – donations \$50.00

    Merchandise sales \$72.00

July 16 – donations	\$50.00
Merchandise sales	\$9.00
July 17- donations	\$50.00
PayPal via Cons. Bd	\$100.17
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$909.17

#### EXPENSES

June 26 – Cons. Bd., roof repair reimbursement	\$5,751.16
July 3 - Esser's, merchandise	\$121.98
July 16 – Allam. Clayton Elec	\$42.32
July 16 – Alpine	\$16.49
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,931.95

CURRENT BALANCE (July 17, 2018)	\$17,610.06
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#### CONSERVATION RESERVE

Balance Brought Forward	(\$46,456.86)
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#### DEPOSITS

Roof repair reimbursement	\$5,751.16
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BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	(\$40,705.70)
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Morine reported that the Clayton County Conservation Board has agreed that the Motor Mill Foundation is no longer required to repay that balance to the CCCB.

In the future, MMF will receive Iowa Room receipts generated by MMF merchandise. The Foundation will reimburse CCCB for Motor expenditures in excess of money CCCB received in grants for MMF projects.

Morine noted that a \$205.69 invoice from Rivals was for the 12 mugs and 12 key chains actually ordered, rather than six of each, which had been approved in an April MMF discussion.

Beck moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Bente seconded. Carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1 – REVIEW INN VISIONING PLAN**

Nikolai has an appointment with Rick and Julie Dengler, owners of Barn of the Bluff, to tour the Inn and brainstorm ideas for how best to use the building in the future. He will report at the August meeting.

### **2 – CLAYTON COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD DISCUSSION**

- A. The CCCB on July 10 agreed to a bookkeeping change that means the Foundation is no longer expected to repay the Conservation Reserve for the remaining bridge balance.
- B. The CCCB voiced concern over a proposal to build an access from the county road to the Mill arches to allow removal of silt in the Mill basement.

### **3 – COOPERAGE CHIMNEY REPAIR**

Nikolai said that Kuempel Masonry has completed replacement of the chimney on the Cooperage.

### **4 – SILT REMOVAL FROM MILL BASEMENT**

The board discussed the feasibility of removing silt from the basement by building a driveway from the county road to the basement arches. Stone and others noted the presence of the stone abutment on the riverbank, and of planks and timbers in the riverbed. Stone urged the board to do more archeological studies before beginning the project.

Pollock said Wapsi Valley Archaeology already has done some preliminary work in conjunction with the design of the Motor Mill Trail. She will contact them to see if they have or can get pertinent information.

Stone moved to wait for a report from Wapsi Valley Archaeology before moving ahead with the silt removal. Beck seconded. Carried.

### **5 – VIDEO PRESENTATION**

Nikolai and Stone have had brief discussions with Joleen Jansen about the introductory video. It is hoped the video will be ready to show at the Clayton County Fair.

## 6 – 2018 EVENTS

The Motor Mill Art Show is set for Sept. 15, from 1-5 p. m.

There will be a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) day camp at Motor on August 1.

The annual Whistlin' Bit Trail Ride will have lunch at Motor on October 14.

The bridge lighting ceremony will be Nov. 17, from 4:30-6 p.m.

Johansen asked for additional tour guides for a group of about 60 people who are scheduled to visit the Mill about 9:30 on Saturday, July 21.

## 7 – WI-FI AT THE MILL

Nikolai said Alpine Communications will provide Wi-Fi at Motor Mill for \$39.95 per month, plus a \$49.95 installation charge. To reconnect the service after discontinuing it for the winter would cost \$39.95. It is unclear if any additional hardware would need to be acquired.

Morine questioned whether we would sell enough more merchandise or get additional donations that would pay for the service. Harkrader said she believes we are losing some sales and donations by not being able to take credit cards.

Morine also cautioned that we should not over-emphasize merchandise sales to the point that it might decrease donations.

Stone noted that access to Wi-Fi might be worthwhile publicity, with people being able to use social media at Motor.

Nikolai proposed delaying the Wi-Fi trial until 2019, after we can assess whether the new tax laws affect how many charitable donations we receive.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 1 – PLANS FOR CLAYTON COUNTY FAIR

Nikolai has arranged for the Motor Mill Foundation to have a booth at the Clayton County Fair August 2-5. He asked for volunteers.

2 – Iowa Farmer Today printed a feature about Silos and Smokestacks on July 7. Nikolai suggested that we propose a story about Motor to the newspaper.

### 3 – BENCHES, BIRDHOUSES

Roger Buchholz has built a number of benches and birdhouses, which he has donated to the Motor Mill Foundation to sell. The board agreed that it would be appropriate to reimburse Buchholz for materials.

#### 4 – UPDATES

Nikolai has asked James Wilson to give an estimate of the cost of repairs to prevent leaking of the roof hatch.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Morine moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. deNeui seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary