

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

**DRAFT**

October 16, 2018

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2018, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m., after an 85<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for board member Chuck Morine. Other members present were Bob Bente, Jane Metcalf, Larry Stone, Lee Lenth, Jon deNeui, and David Beck. Ken Zichal arrived about 7:30 p.m. Conservation Board naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Syd Morine was a guest/hostess.

**AGENDA**

Stone asked to add an item about an offer from Mary Klink to donate a Clipper fanning mill to the foundation. Lenth asked to add an item about a possible donation from Harry Robbins of a scale from the Mederville Creamery. Stone moved to approve the agenda with the additions. Morine seconded. Carried.

**MINUTES**

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the Sept. 18, 2018, meeting as distributed. Lenth seconded. Carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Sept. 18 Beginning balance \$18,716.89

RECEIPTS

Sept. 18 – donations	\$110.0
Sept. 24 – donations from The Shanti	\$38.10
Oct. 1 – donations	\$54.00
Video sales	\$10.00
Merchandise sales	\$58.00
Oct. 3 – CCCB via PayPal	\$23.67
Oct. 12 – Art Show fees	\$40.00

Oct. 15 – Heritage Days

Donations	\$209.00
Video sales	\$20.00
Bird houses	\$10.00
Merchandise sales	\$296.00
Return of change	\$40.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$908.77

EXPENSES

Oct. 19 – Esser’s Menswear, merchandise	\$48.15
Oct. 12 – Allamakee Clayton Electric	\$42.02
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$90.17

Oct. 16 CURRENT BALANCE \$19,535.49

**OLD BUSINESS**

1 – WELL TEST

Nikolai reported that Jim Handke was able to operate the pump in the well between the Inn and the Stable. A test water sample sent to the State Hygenic Lab showed bacterial contamination. Handke will shock chlorinate the well and submit another sample for testing.

2 – ART SHOW FOLLOW-UP

Metcalf said that she, Harkrader, and Stone discussed how to improve the Art Show. About 100 people attended the Sept. 15, 2018 event. The vendors reported mixed sales results. Metcalf suggested moving the date to Sept. 7 to avoid conflicts with other festivals and activities. Zichal moved to set the 2019 Motor Mill Art Show for Sept. 7. deNeui seconded. Carried.

Suggestions for future shows included more family activities, a baking contest, a Turkey River activity, and possible coordination with Elkader's Art in the Park.

### 3 – DISCUSSION OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Nikolai is seeking contractors to propose types of septic systems that could be used at the Motor Mill site.

deNeui distributed a list of proposed work that could be done at the Motor Mill Historic Site. Items included: Stable roof, framing, siding, flooring; Ice House; Mill passage excavation, electrical service, silt removal, basement floor installation; Cooperage clean-out next to hill, gutters and downspouts, windows, floor; General site toilet, parking, brick kiln, quarry display, sawmill.

Zichal stressed the need to give the public safe access to the Inn.

Lenth said he will attempt to repair animal damage to the door on the Ice/Smoke House.

Morine and Beck noted the need to remove scrap wood and unnecessary equipment from the Mill and other buildings.

The board discussed which work should be a priority. There will be a discussion of plans for the Inn on Nov. 6 at 2 p.m. at Osborne.

### 4 - SILT REMOVAL

Given the continued flooding and the approach of winter, the board agreed that the project may have to wait until spring.

Nikolai has been in touch with county engineer Rafe Koopman about the logistics and permit requirements for disposing of the spoil along the county road north of the Stable.

The board discussed whether permits might be required to work in the floodplain removing the silt and piling it to haul away.

### 5 – BRIDGE LIGHTING

After considerable discussion, the board agreed to hold the bridge lighting ceremony from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m., on Saturday, November 17. The bridge lighting will be at 5 p.m.

The lights will be set to come on between 5 p.m. and 11 p.m., from Nov. 17 through January 2.

The board also agreed to buy new LED lights.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1 – BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS**

Morine moved to re-elect Stone, Lenth, and Morine to the Motor Mill Foundation board. Beck seconded. Lenth moved that the nominations cease. Morine seconded. Carried.

### **2 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Morine moved to re-elect the current board officers: Nikolai, chair; deNeui, vice-chair; Stone, secretary; Morine, treasurer. Metcalf seconded. Carried.

### **3 – HERITAGE DAYS**

The board discussed the weather problems with this year's Heritage Days, but agreed that we had a reasonable turn-out, given the wind, cold and occasional rain.

### **4 – DONATION FROM MARY KLINK**

Mary Klink has offered to donate a Clipper fanning mill that she believes was used by Les Klink's grandfather at Motor Mill. Morine moved to accept the donation with thanks. Zichal seconded. Carried.

### **5 – DONATION FROM HARRY ROBBINS**

Harry Robbins has offered to donate a platform scale that was used at the Mederville Creamery. Morine moved to accept the donation with thanks. Lenth seconded. Carried.

## **UPDATE**

### **6 – DONATION FROM SHANE CHRISTEN**

Shane Christen, who in the past has been involved with Civil War encampments at Motor, has donated his historical fiction book, "Men of Flesh and Blood," to the Foundation. One chapter refers to an outpost that was inspired by Motor.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Lenth moved to adjourn the meeting about 8:58 p.m. p.m. deNeui seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary