

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

September 17, 2019

DRAFT

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other members present were Ken Zichal, Chris Schoen, Lee Lenth, Larry Stone, Chuck Morine, and Jane Metcalf. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

AGENDA

Morine asked to add agenda items about Heritage Days and board elections. Morine moved to approve the agenda with those additions. Lenth seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the Aug. 20, 2019, meeting as distributed. Lenth seconded. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Morine suggested that the Foundation adopt a policy to not pay major bills until the board has approved them.

Schoen moved that all bills over \$50, other than routine recurring expenses, require board approval. Morine seconded. Carried.

Morine submitted the following financial report for August:

Date	Debit	Credit	Balance
Aug. 20 – beginning balance			\$31,869.03
RECEIPTS			
Aug. 26 – merchandise sales		12.00	
Bench sale		100.00	
Donations		40.00	
Sept. 3 – merchandise sales		143.00	
Donations		212.00	

Sept. 5 – Donation, Darrell Schaper	100.00
Sept. 9 (from Sept 7 Art Show) – merchandise sales	51.00
Pie sales	108.50
Photo contest	126.91
Donations	21.00
Sept 17 – merchandise sales	15.00
Donations	13.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$942.41

EXPENSES

Aug 21 – Nikolai, State Fair Expenses	229.70
Sept. 5 – U. S. Postal Service, returned newsletters	15.40
Heritage Printing, newsletter	339.43
Esser's, merchandise	286.98
Sept. 9 – Allam. Clayton Elec	42.95
Sept. 13 – CCCB, reimburse architect's fees	\$345.00
Sept. 17 – Kuempel Masonry, Cooperage chimney	700.00
Alpine Communic., repair service	65.02
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,024.48
Sept. 17 - CURRENT BALANCE	\$30,786.96

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

OLD BUSINESS

1 – Art Show – Metcalf said the estimated Art Show attendance was 80-plus. The committee judged the event a success, and proposed continuing it next year – perhaps billing it as a “festival,” rather than “show.”

Expenses so far included \$92.61 for printing entries in the photo contest, and \$210.80 for one Clayton County Register group newspaper ad. A bill for a second ad will be coming. Metcalf said most people apparently learned about the event through sources other than the newspaper. She suggested dropping that venue next year.

Some suggestions for the 2020 festival included: more advance publicity about the artifacts road show; picking a date so as to get it on 2020 events calendars; video social media publicity; an art class; email artists to invite them; a baking contest, painting bird houses; having a vendor preparing and serving fry bread or other pioneer food; advance publicity for Ken Leonard’s mule wagon, if he participates again; do not hold a savanna tour; invite high school art classes; continue sand painting and building blocks

Lenth moved to approve repaying the Conservation Board \$92.61 for photo printing. Zichal seconded. Carried.

Metcalf reported that Tom Healy has offered to donate a framed photo of Motor Mill as a fund raiser – either for next year’s festival or another special event.

2 – Industrial arts machines - Nikolai has not received any positive responses from school wanting our unused equipment. Lenth will talk to Amish friends to assess their interest.

3 – Zichal said the Clayton County Energy District in 2020 plans to make LED light bulbs available at Motor and Osborne to people who want to exchange old incandescent bulbs for LEDs.

4 – Schech’s Mill – the operator of Schech’s Mill near Caledonia, Minn., has agreed to give programs at Osborne and Motor Mill on Oct. 12. Zichal offered to make a donation to pay expenses.

Board members have been unable to arrange a program by Chris or Patrick Grau.

5 – Roof repair – Lenth will meet with Amish carpenters about painting the Mill roof hatch and repairing missing shingles. Zichal moved to authorize payment of about \$15-20 per hour, or to barter in exchange for power equipment from the Mill.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – Adding partner names to stationery – The board discussed whether to add logos or names of Mississippi River Parkway Commission, Turkey River Recreational Corridor or Silos and Smokestacks to our stationery. Morine opposed the idea. Pollock will prepare some examples for the board to consider.

2 – Heritage Days – Morine offered to help set up the MMF booth on Saturday and to dismantle it Sunday. The board proposed limiting merchandise sales to the Mill and the Iowa Room.

3 – Election – Morine said that the terms of seven board members would expire, requiring elections to fill or renew the positions in October.

UPDATES

Nikolai reported that he arranged with Louis Keppler to build the access road to remove silt from the basement. The work was completed Sept. 17. Board members questioned what the next step in the silt removal would be. Nikolai agreed to discuss the plans with Pollock.

The board discussed whether we should attempt to remove rock debris that had been piled against the river side wall of the Mill, blocking passages that had been designed for water to exit after passing through the turbines. That type of work probably will require a permit from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Motor Mill was featured in a recent issue of “Inspired” magazine, a Driftless Area regional publication.

Pollock said the Foundation should consider reviewing and updating the organization’s by-laws.

Mark Batchelder of Johnston, Ia., has donated \$500 to the Motor Mill endowment.

ADJOURNMENT

Zichal moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Schoen seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

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