

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

Aug. 18, 2020

DRAFT

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, August 18, at the Osborne Conservation Center, with the option of a virtual ZOOM connection, which was deemed necessary because of concerns over spread of COVID-19 via an in-person meeting. President John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Other members present in person were Chris Schoen, Chuck Morine, Dave Beck, Lee Lenth, and Jon deNeui. Mark Yackel-Juleen, Jane Metcalf, Larry Stone, and intern Nick Friedmann attended via ZOOM. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader attended in person.

AGENDA

deNeui moved to approve the agenda, with the correction noting the stock tanks to soak the turbines are 300 gallons rather than 3,000. Morine seconded. Carried

MINUTES

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the July 21 meeting as distributed. Schoen seconded. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Morine presented the following treasurer's report:

Date

July 21	Beginning Balance	30,399.71
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Receipts

July 25 09	merchandise sales	33.00
	donations	73.00
August 3	– Iowa Room sales	147.00
	Clock donated by Duane Pech	100.00
	Merchandise sales	18.00
	Donations	28.00

August 12 – merchandise sales	97.00
Donations	94.00
Donation – Beverly Klink estate	335.00
August 17 – merchandise sales	45.00
Donations	48.00
Total Receipts	1,018.00

Expenses

July 23 – SPOOM membership	50.00
August 14 – Allam. Clayton Elec.	62.48
Alpine Communications	17.05
August 17 – CCCB reimbursement, Iowa Wall Sawing	\$500.00
Total Expenses	629.53

Current Balance - August 18, 2020 **30,788.18**

Lenth moved to accept the treasurer’s report. Schoen seconded. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1 – ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION -- Nikolai and deNeui have met with Alan Wessels, who is installing wiring in the Mill. They are still looking for the appropriate LED lights to install. There will be track lights to illuminate the scales and the first floor interpretive displays on the river side. The idea of a “chandelier” to hang over the open areas of the second, third, and fourth floors is being discussed.

Metcalf asked whether different zones of lights would be controlled individually. She also suggested that lights shining on the windows might add a dramatic touch for special occasions, such as the holiday bridge lighting.

2 – SILT REMOVAL UPDATE – Schoen said it took more than two weeks for John Moyna's crew to remove silt averaging 9 to 10 feet deep from the basement. He praised Andy Koehn and Bryan Willson for their skill and cooperation.

Four turbines were located: one was left in place intact; the shaft of one was removed, having been detached from the drum sometime in the past; two were removed mostly in one piece. Those two are being soaked in water in stock tanks while Schoen researches how best to preserve them.

Removing the silt revealed much about the interior construction of the Mill.

The next step is to build a viewing platform accessible by a stairway from the first floor. It will be built on beams atop the basement piers. Lenth has spoken to Chris Grau to arrange getting rough-cut floor joists.

Stone noted the need to be sure the platform and railing around it are safe for visitors – especially children.

Schoen contacted the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to ask for a site visit seeking guidelines for ways we might attempt to partially close the arches to prevent future flood damage and siltation. SHPO recommended seeking the opinion of an engineer.

Subsequently, Mike Tucker, of Martin-Gardner Architecture, viewed the site on August 17. He will prepare a report.

Yackel-Juleen suggested that we should have a graphic interpretive display near the platform to give visitors a perspective on how the turbines operated.

deNeui noted the problem of wind blowing through the building and blowing dust onto the upper floors. Lenth said it might be possible to put a wooden trap door over the basement stairway to reduce the problem.

3 – SCALES AND FANNING MILL – Volunteers have moved the scales and fanning mill from the George Meier Rural Heritage Museum to Motor.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – TURBINE HISTORY – Beck has concluded from George Crosby's diaries that the turbines probably are Leffel Waterwheels sold to John Thompson & Co by E.P. Allis & Co of Chicago, Ill. in 1869.

2 – CHARGE ACCOUNT – Pollock said Nikolai’s use of the Clayton County Conservation Board account to charge the cost of water tanks and ventilation fans has resulted in budget problems for CCCB and the county auditor. She asked to have advance notice before using the CCCB account, and that Nikolai or other MMF board members be listed on the account.

UPDATES

Pollock is preparing a grant application to the Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation of behalf of the Clayton County Historic Preservation Commission to receive financial assistance for Stable renovation.

Morine asked what we should be doing to display/preserve the log beam from the dam, which was retrieved from the river a few years ago. The board discussed putting it outside under an open shelter.

Stone has sent a thank-you to John Moyna for his company’s help in cleaning out the basement silt. Stone will begin work on a story about the project for the news media.

ADJOURNMENT

Beck moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Schoen seconded. Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

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