

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

October 20, 2020

DRAFT

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, October 20, by way 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 7:07 p.m. Other members present via ZOOM were Chuck Morine, Jane Metcalf, Jon deNeui, Chris Schoen, and Larry Stone. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

AGENDA

Stone moved to approve the agenda, with the addition of a report on the endowment at the Community Foundation, and an update on the status of preserving the turbines. Schoen seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the September 15 meeting as distributed. Schoen seconded. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Morine presented the following treasurer's report:

Sept. 15	Beginning balance	31,573.82	
	Receipts		
Sept. 28	video sales		10.00
	donations		121.00
Oct. 18	bird houses & benches		140.00
	video sales		10.00
	merchandise		183.00
	donations		296.81
	earlier donations		40.00
	<i>Total Receipts</i>		<i>800.81</i>

Expenses

Sept. 15	Alpine Communications	17.05
Oct. 12	Allamakee Clayton Electric	54.01
Oct. 12	C.C.C.B. - reimburse electrical service installation	17,887.47
Oct, 16	Alpine Communications	17.09

Total Expenses 17,975.63

Oct. 20 - Current Balance 14,399.01

deNeui moved to accept the treasurer's report. Metcalf seconded. Carried.

Pollock asked that the Foundation inform her in advance of large expenditures. That will help the Conservation Board manage expenditures for the Motor Mill Trail project.

OLD BUSINESS

1 – LIGHTING CONCERNS – Nikolai and Stone met at the Mill October 7 to consider where new light fixtures would be appropriate. They concluded that about 13 are needed on the first and second floors.

Metcalf asked the board to delay making a final decision. She showed photos of a number of fixtures that she suggested might minimize the intrusion on the historic building and harmonize with or complement the stone architecture. deNeui noted that most of the wiring was installed in such a way that various types of fixtures can be easily plugged in or changed. Metcalf also asked if there are ways we could paint or otherwise camouflage the conduit to make it less evident.

The board agreed to consider the lighting options in more detail before purchasing any more fixtures.

3 – BARRIER FOR ARCHES – deNeui explained his idea of using bridge planks laid on edge on the outside of the Mill arches. The planks could be held in place with A-frame supports in the arches, and by long bolts connecting to other planks on the inside of the arches.

Schoen cautioned that we should document the arches with photos before beginning, and that we should explain the situation to the State Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO). But he expects SHPO to agree to the plan.

Schoen noted that the planks could be cut to the outline of the arches to simulate the historic appearance.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – PLATFORM CONSTRUCTION – Stone and Nikolai reported that Lee Lenth has finished the stairway and viewing platform, and is putting the finishing touches on the safety railings. The public platform will be enclosed with cattle panels, but there will be gated access for the staff to reach the rock ledge on the north and the windows on the south.

2 – ELECTION OF OFFICERS – Morine said no board members are up for election this year. But the one-year terms of all officers are expiring. He moved to re-elect Nikolai as president, Metcalf as vice-president, Stone as secretary, and Morine as treasurer. Schoen seconded, Carried.

3 – STABLE PROJECT – Clayton County has received a \$35,000 grant from the Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation to repair the Stable to make it safe and useful for gatherings. Preliminary estimates for stabilizing the interior supports, leveling the concrete floor, updating electricity, and reroofing totaled \$47,432. Thus, the Conservation Board and Motor Mill Foundation would have to pay about \$12,000.

With consultation with the Motor Mill Foundation, Pollock will solicit bids for the project.

4 – ROOF RUNOFF AND BASEMENT FLOODING – Nikolai and Stone each have had brief conversations with John Moyna about how to keep runoff from the roof and road from flooding the basement. (Note: considerable water is pooled in the basement after the 6-inch rain of Oct. 22.)

5 – VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT – Nikolai has talked with Roger Thomas about volunteers from the Motor Mill Foundation and the George Maier Museum helping each other.

UPDATES

TURBINE PRESERVATION - Schoen has been researching ways to preserve the wooden turbines. Suggestions have included soaking the turbines in a refined sugar solution or in a polypropylene glycol solution. In addition, the temperature and humidity would have to be carefully controlled. The wooden turbines may have to be removed from the iron shafts.

Schoen will email board members when he hears more specifics. Some action will be needed before the water starts to freeze in the tanks in which the turbines are now stored.

ENDOWMENT WITH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Nikolai reported that the endowment balance now is more than \$11,000, following a donation of \$1,000 by John and Cathy Downey, of Overland Park, Kans., in honor of their parents.

BRIDGE LIGHTING – The board agreed not to provide hot chocolate and cookies at the Nov. 21 ceremony to light the holiday lights on the bridge, given the need for social distancing during the pandemic. The event will begin at 5 p.m., with the lighting to take place at 5:15 p.m. The Foundation will encourage participants to go to Littleport for the fire department fund raising carry-out supper.

ADJOURNMENT

Schoen moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. Pollock seconded. Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

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