

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

November 17, 2020

DRAFT

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 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 7:08 p.m. Other members present via ZOOM were Chuck Morine, Jane Metcalf, Ken Zichal, and Larry Stone. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

AGENDA

Morine asked to add an item of correspondence to the agenda. Nikolai said Lee Lenth had suggested trying to get a speed limit imposed on the road past the Mill. Lenth also may know someone who'd be interested in acquiring the bobsled that's stored in the Stable.

Metcalf moved to approve the agenda with those three additions. Morine seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the October 20 meeting as distributed. Stone seconded. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Morine presented the following treasurer's report:

Oct. 20	Beginning balance	14,399.01
Receipts		
Oct. 29	merchandise sales	20.00
	donations	41.00
	donation: Larry & Margaret Stone	500.00
Nov. 16	donation: Burnell R. Smith - family trust	1,000.00

Total Receipts

1,561.00

Expenses

Oct. 29	CCCB, reimburse cattle panels	118.85
Nov. 16	Alpine Communications	17.09
Nov. 16	Alla. Clayton Electric	51.95
	Total Expenses	187.89

Nov. 12 Current balance **15,772.12**

Morine moved to accept the treasurer's report. Stone seconded. Carried.

Stone will send a set of Gordy Callison prints to the Burnell R. Smith family trust.

Nikolai noted that the Foundation will be getting a bill for \$30 from Alpine Communications for installation of the phone line

OLD BUSINESS

1 – LIGHTING CONCERNS – Metcalf said the lighting committee met November 9 via zoom. The group discussed what types of light fixtures might be most appropriate for the 150-year-old architecture of the Mill. Metcalf plans to give a more detailed report at the December meeting, after the committee has a chance to meet in the Mill.

2 – DISMANTLING AND PRESERVING THE WOOD TURBINES – Stone prepared a brief PowerPoint of photos of how MMF volunteers soaked the turbines in water for several months, then removed the drums from the turbine shafts. The drums now are covered with tarps in the shop of the old center at Osborne, where they will be left to dry out slowly.

Stone noted that Chris Schoen has been in touch with a preservation expert in Maryland who estimated that it might be possible to have a turbine professionally restored for about \$8,000. The board briefly discussed whether that would be possible.

Stone reported that David Back has compiled a history of how James Crosby acquired the Leffel turbines from Edward P. Allis & Co., in Chicago. Stone speculated that AGCO – the farm equipment company that acquired Allis through various mergers - might be interested in helping with the cost of turbine preservation.

3 – UPDATE ON PLATFORM PROJECT – Lenth has mostly completed work on the basement viewing platform. But the board agreed that it probably is not wise to allow the public access until we have installed all the desired safety facilities, including a light.

4 – VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT – At Nikolai's request, Larry Kubly of Edgewood and Tim Heller of Elkader helped install the lights on the bridge railings in early November.

5 – BRIDGE LIGHTING EVENT – The annual bridge lighting ceremony will be from 5-6 p.m. on Saturday, November 21. We are asking people to drive by, rather than congregating in or near the Mill. We will have bags of cookies – provided by Metcalf, Pollock, and Margaret Stone – to give to people in their cars. There also will be a donation box.

The event coincides with the annual fund raising supper for the Littleport Fire Department at the Littleport Church from 4-8 p.m. That event will be drive-by.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – DONATION LETTER – Pollock and Nikolai have prepared a letter to potential donors. It will be passed out at the bridge lighting, and distributed via social media and our mailing list.

2 – TRRC REPRESENTATIVE – Stone agreed to continue as Motor's member of the Turkey River Recreational Corridor board. Nikolai offered to remain the alternate.

3 – STABLE PROJECT – Pollock agreed to contact the engineer who recommended Stable improvements, and request that he help prepare more specific instructions to give to contractors who might bid on the project.

4 – CLEANING OUT STABLE PRIOR TO REPAIRS – The Clayton County Conservation Board staff has removed many items that were stored in the Stable. Nikolai is recycling the street lights and wiring.

5 – DAVE METZ – Nikolai has invited Dave Metz, who has helped preserve the Pine Creek Mill at Wildcat Den State Park, to return to Motor to offer advice on our restoration efforts.

6 – Morine shared photos sent by Christie Harwood, of Arlington, which showed the Mill and bridge in June 1991, following the bridge wash-out.

7 – Lee Lenth has reported that an Amish man is interested in acquiring the bobsled that is stored in the Stable. Stone noted that it might be property of the Conservation Board.

8 – Lenth and others have suggested the need for a speed limit or other way to slow traffic past the Mill. Nikolai agreed to contact County Engineer Rafe Koopman about the matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Metcalf moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Zichal seconded. Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

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