

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

January 19, 2021

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 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. Those present online were: John Nikolai, David Beck, Chris Schoen, Ken Zichal, Larry Stone, and Clayton County Conservation Board naturalist Abbey Harkrader. Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock was at Osborne. Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

AGENDA

Zichal moved to approve the agenda as printed. Schoen seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Schoen moved to approve the minutes of the December 15 meeting as distributed. Zichal seconded. Carried.

FINANCIAL REPPORT

Morine sent the following treasurer's report:

Dec. 15	Beginning balance	19,410.02
	Receipts	
Dec. 17	John Nikolai, scrap sales	87.55
Jan. 4	donation: Ralph Livingston family	500.00
Jan. 11	donation: Roger Thomas, old machinery	50.00
Jan. 14	photo contest entries	82.07
Jan. 14	donation; Jack K. Freeman	100.00
Jan. 14	donation: Christopher Schoen & Laura Elsinger	100.00
Jan. 14	donation: The Blackbaud Giving Fund	60.00
	Total Receipts	979.62

Expenses

Dec. 16.	Alpine Communications	17.09
Dec. 20	Jansen Products, web hosting	204.00
Jan. 14	Allamakee Clayton Electric	44.02
Jan. 15	Alpine Communications	17.40
	Total Expenses	282.51
Jan. 18 -	Current balance	20,107.13

Beck moved to accept the treasurer's report. Schoen seconded. Carried.

Zichal told the board that he and his family have donated \$10,000 to be used to help pay for professional preservation of the wooden turbines. That money will go through the Clayton County Conservation Board, the entity that will pay for the project.

OLD BUSINESS

1 - PRESERVING THE WOOD TURBINES – Nikolai and Schoen met with District Forester David Asche to attempt to determine the type of wood used to build the Motor Mill turbines. Asche suggested it could be white or bur oak. He will consult further with forestry experts at Iowa State University.

Pollock said the Clayton County Conservation Board has endorsed using MAC Lab in Maryland to professionally restore/preserve the turbines, as recommended by Schoen.

Zichal said he and his family agreed that "we have one chance to do this right," and felt so strongly that they have donated \$10,000 for that project.

Schoen has offered to take the turbines to Maryland, but noted that they should be enclosed in protective crates. Nikolai said he would consult with Adam Pollock, owner of Fire Farm, Inc., about building shipping crates.

2 – LIGHTING IN THE MILL – The lighting committee has not met, so had no additional report.

3 – VISITOR SAFETY AND TRAFFIC – Nikolai observed that much of the dangerous vehicle traffic past the Mill involves canoe outfitters. He urged further consideration of speed bumps, and questioned whether traffic cones would solve the problem. Schoen suggested communicating with canoe outfitters.

4 – STABLE UPDATE – Pollock said only two contractors have visited the site, and both were interested only in the concrete work. She will reach out to others to seek bids for the roof and structural work before the February 9 Conservation Board meeting, when bids are due.

5 – SECURITY SYSTEM – Pollock has received a proposal from Alpine Communications for approximately \$3,900. She is waiting for another bid from Comelec. Pollock noted that a system donated by Tom Gifford several years ago probably will not work, because it was a motion detector, which could be triggered by animals.

Nikolai will get in touch with former associates in the scrap industry to see if they have any recommendations.

6 – INTERN GRANT – Harkrader said she is preparing the application for a grant for an intern. Some intern duties would include youth programs, social media, and the website.

7 – PHOTO CONTEST – Harkrader reported that there were 15 entries in the photo contest. The winners were: 1) Brian Gibbs, winter scene; 2) Kirsten Lenth, summer scene; Honorable mention – Lorraine Hubbard, Cooperage through the Mill window; Lisa Ellermann, bridge and Mill; Trisha Martin, Mill and bluff from river; Brian Gibbs, Stable and snow.

Stone moved to continue the contest through the year, with 2021 winners announced in January 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – YEAR END REPORT – Harkrader emailed the 2020 report to all MMF board members. It also is available on the website.

2 – BULLETIN BOARD – The board discussed the idea of preparing a bulletin board at the Mill showing before-after photos with a timeline of our accomplishments through the years. Stone offered to put together a selection of photos in a PowerPoint program for the board to review.

3 – COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER DUBUQUE – The 2020 ending balance for the Motor Mill Foundation Endowment is \$13,226.60.

4 – DONATION THANK-YOUS – Stone has sent donation thank-yous to Steve and Ann McCorkindale, Mark Batchelder, James Osterhaus, and the family of Ralph Livingston. Nikolai has sent a thank-you to Jack K. Freeman.

5 – LIGHTS FOR BRIDGE – Zichal moved to approve purchase of lights to replace defective or non-matching lights for the annual bridge lighting. Schoen seconded. Carried.

UPDATES

Pollock asked for volunteers to help with tours at the Mill for a Farm Bureau group on March 27. She is expecting more information about the time and number of people.

Beck said he has learned through his research that the Inn was built by Edgar Partsch.

ADJOURNMENT

Beck moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Stone seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

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