

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

(DRAFT)

March 16, 2021

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, March 2021, by way 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, Chuck Morine, and Clayton County Conservation Board naturalist Abbey Harkrader. CCCB director Jenna Pollock and MMF board member Lee Lenth were at the Osborne Conservation Center. Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

AGENDA

Nikolai asked to add an item to the agenda to discuss Corps of Engineers and Iowa DNR regulations dealing with the Turkey River. Zichal moved to approve the agenda with that addition. Schoen seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Morine moved to approve the February 16, 2021, minutes as distributed. Schoen seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine submitted the following treasurer's report:

Feb. 16	Beginning balance	\$19,557.21
	Receipts	
Feb. 11	donation, old machinery, Roger Thomas	20.00
Feb. 22	donation, Amazon	6.10
Feb. 24	donation, Blackbaud Giving Fund	20.00
Mar. 04	John Nikolai, scrap sales	55.78
	Total receipts	101.88

Expenses		
Feb. 22	Alpine Communications	17.40
Mar. 15	Allam. Clayton Electric	41.98
	Total Expenses	59.38

March 16 - Current balance \$19,599.71

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

OLD BUSINESS

1 - TURBINE TRANSPORT – Lenth and Schoen will build crates for the turbines on March 23. Schoen hopes to transport them to the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory in early April. Nikolai has contacted David Wilke about getting recycled cardboard to pack around the turbine crates.

2 – SECURITY CAMERAS – Pollock has proposed replacing the trail cameras currently being used for Mill security, due to their unreliability, inconvenience, and poor battery life. Alpine has submitted a proposal to install and set up 5 cameras for \$3864.

The board discussed whether the cameras are needed and whether they would detract from the historical appearance of the Mill, but took no further action at this time.

3 – STABLE PROJECT – Pollock reported that the Conservation Board had rejected all bids for the Stable renovation, pending further discussion on what work is appropriate.

Dale Kittleson of Decorah has agreed to help prepare bid documents for keeping and stabilizing most of the upper interior beams, while aligning the lower posts and probably replacing the lower beams.

4 – PHOTO DISPLAY OF WORK COMPLETED – Stone presented a selection of photos of renovation work that has been completed at the Motor Mill Historic Site. The board discussed how such photos might be displayed. Nikolai appointed a subcommittee to make recommendations. Members are: Stone, Beck, Zichal, Schoen, and Nikolai. The committee tentatively is scheduled to meet April 19.

5 – VOLUNTEERS FOR MARCH 27 FARM BUREAU TOUR – Pollock said young farmers from Dubuque and Clayton Counties would like a tour of Motor during their UTV ride. The time is uncertain, but Pollock will ask them to call

when they leave Bootlegger's at Millville. As many board members as possible are asked to be at the Mill to help.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – SPRING CLEANING – Board members are asked to help with cleaning at the Mill on April 22, when it is anticipated that students from Central Schools will be there for an Earth Day volunteer project.

2 – TOUR DATES FOR 2021 – The board agreed to open the Mill for tours on May 29 (Saturday of Memorial Day weekend), and to continue being open on Saturdays only through June. Then we will assess the Covid-19 situation and decide whether to also open on Sundays for the rest of the season.

3 – VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT – Nikolai urged board members to continue to be on the alert for individuals who would be good volunteer prospects.

4 – TURKEY RIVER – IOWA DNR AND CORPS OF ENGINEERS – Nikolai has received a letter from Jeff Nelson of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers assuring us that no permit will be needed to pump out floodwaters from the basement of the Mill. Nikolai is awaiting a response from the Iowa DNR.

REPORTS

1 – TRRC – Stone attended the March 2 Turkey River Recreational Corridor meeting. Items of interest included: a) comments still needed on the Elkader Visioning Plan, which is on the city's website; b) discussions are continuing on plans to complete the loop of the Pony Hollow Trail to connect the north and south ends via the Elkader Wetland; c) the Turkey River Safari, which uses a guidebook to direct people to sites in the river corridor (including Motor), will continue this year; d) Brian Gibbs, naturalist for the Fayette County Conservation Board, has a feature story and photos about TRRC in the upcoming Iowa Outdoors magazine.

2 – LIGHTING IN THE MILL – Harkrader said the lighting committee met March 1 to consider paint and duct tape samples for covering the electrical conduit. The next meeting will be March 22 to look at options for styles of light fixtures.

3 – Pollock showed photos of a wooden wildlife mural that has been offered as a donation to the Motor Mill Foundation for possible use as a fund-raiser.

4 – Pollock asked concurrence for the Conservation Board to submit a pre-application to Upper Mississippi Gaming to be able to apply for a grant to work on renovating the Inn. Morine moved to endorse the application. Schoen seconded. Carried.

5 – Beck and Stone were interviewed for a “Bluffs, Brooks and Byways” podcast about Motor Mill, sponsored by the River Bluffs Scenic Byway. Links will be available on the Motor Mill and Clayton County Conservation Board Facebook pages.

ADJOURNMENT

Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:36p.m. Schoen seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

Motor Mill Foundation