Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes (DRAFT)

October 20, 2026

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Those present included: Ken Zichal, Dan Slagel, Brian Balster, Chris Schoen, Jay Elvers, Larry Stone, Steve McCorkindale, Jane Metcalf, Lee Pool, Don Venteicher, and Chuck Morine, as well as Clayton County Conservation Board director Ean Popenhagen. Amanda Knox was a guest. Zichal called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

AGENDA

Elvers moved to approve the agenda as distributed. McCorkindale seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Slagel presented a treasurer's report to the board.

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

OLD BUSINESS

1 – MILL FOUNDATION – Popenhagen and Mallory Hanson from NE Iowa RC&D met with Historic Resource Development (HRDP) staff. Popenhagen said HRDP is OK with using more than $40,000 left in a HRDP foundation stabilization grant to replace basement floor beams. With the ongoing discussions, the grant deadline is not currently an issue.

2 – BRIDGE LIGHTING – Elvers, Pool and Metcalf met with the Clayton County Side-by-Side group, who plan to use a bucket lift to install holiday lights on the Motor bridge on Nov. 7 or 8. The MMF board agreed to accept the SXS offer to put lights on the railings (which MMF has done in the past) in addition to overhead lights. The SXS group also has offered to let the MMF use SXS radios to coordinate parking during the bridge lighting ceremony on Nov. 21.

The board concurred with Metcalf's suggestion to have a few decorations in the Inn, such as greens and electric candles in the windows. The MMF will provide cookies and warm cider in the Inn.

Popenhagen will ask Central Schools madrigal singers if they'd be willing to perform at the event.

3 – MIDWEST ARTIST GRANT – Amanda Knox, art teacher at Starmont Schools, proposed applying for a grant from the Midwest Regional GIG Fund to bring Ohio knife maker Paul Petro to Motor to demonstrate his craft and his coal forge. Knox's husband, Mike, could open his Strawberry Point business, Knox Studios, for additional demonstrations. The board agreed that this would be a worthwhile educational event. After considerable discussion, the board concurred that Petro's demonstration should be at Motor, rather than at Osborne Days.

Knox suggested applying for $2-3,000, which would need to be matched 1:1 by the MMF. Some of the match could be in-kind. Pool moved to proceed with the grant application. Balster seconded. Carried.

Schoen moved to authorize up to $2,000 to the project. Balster seconded. Carried. Schoen agreed to meet with Knox to help prepare the grant application.

4 – GALAXY ROAD – Zichal shared a draft of a letter to the Clayton County Board of Supervisors and the County Engineer advocating to improve Galaxy Road between Communia and the Motor bridge. Popenhagen proposed waiting until after a November 4 Turkey River Recreational Corridor meeting, when TRRC might support the road improvements.

5 – GRAFFITI - Zichal said the recent installation of more cameras should help deter vandals.

6 – OBORNE DAYS - Slagel noted that the Foundation received about $300 in donations and merchandise sales during Osborne Days on Oct. 9-10. The board agreed that it was helpful to have a volunteer at the Inn to make the gift shop and the restroom accessible.

7 - INN RAILING – Zichal is still waiting to hear an estimate for the cost of installing a railing along the sidewalk to the second floor of the Inn.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – ELECTIONS – Morine moved to reelect directors Elvers, Slagel, and Venteicher. McCorkindale seconded. Carried.

Morine moved to elect Chris Schoen as new MMF board chair, as Dr. Ken Zichal has declined to run again. McCorkindale seconded. Carried.

Schoen moved to elect Steve McCorkindale as vice-chair. Morine seconded. Carried.

Morine moved that Slagel continue as treasurer and Stone remain as secretary. McCorkindale seconded. Carried.

2 – ELECTRONIC MEETINGS – The board discussed whether to encourage virtual participation in MMF meetings. While the consensus was that face-to-face meetings are preferable, Popenhagen said it would be possible to have an electronic option when deemed appropriate in case of illness, weather, or other circumstances.

3 – ART OF THE MILL – The board discussed sponsoring another exhibition at Motor for people to display artwork from the Motor Mill Historic Site. Stone shared a photo of a painting done about 50 years ago by the mother of woman who recently toured the Mill. The board took no action.

NOTES

Slagel reported that we did not receive the SPOOM grant we applied for. SPOOM officials said the available $8,000 all went to restoration work, rather interpretation.

ADJOURNMENT

McCorkindale moved to adjourn the meeting at 8 p.m. Elvers seconded. Carried.

Larry A. Stone, secretary

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