

Motor Mill Foundation
Minutes
September 17, 2013

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, September 17, 2013. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Other board members present were Lee Lenth, Ellen Collins, Jon deNeui, Chuck Morine, and Betty Buchholz. Clayton County Conservation Board director Tim Engelhardt and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

MINUTES

Hearing no additions or corrections, Nikolai accepted the minutes of the August 16 meeting as printed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chuck Morine submitted the following report:

Motor Mill Foundation

September 17, 2013- beginning balance \$7,125.08

Receipts

Aug 28	Larry Stone, photo sales	\$80
	donations	\$92
Sept. 5	Larry Stone, photo sales	\$290
	merchandise sales	\$91
	donations	\$346
Sept. 6	Larry Stone, photo sales	\$25
	donations	\$75
Sept. 16	merchandise sales	\$46
	donations	\$120

Total receipts \$1165.00

Expenses

Sept. 11	Esser's Menswear, merchandise	\$342.40
Sept. 11	Allam Clayton Elec	\$34.81

Total expenses \$377.21

July 16, 2013 balance \$7,912.87

CONSERVATION RESERVE FUND

June 18, 2013 (negative) balance (\$70,488.48)

Deposits

Iowa Room – MM cap, hoodie, t-shirt, note card \$62

Expenses –

July 18, 2013 (negative) balance (\$70,426.48)

CAPITAL FUND

July 16, 2013 balance carried forward \$8,258.30

Deposits

Total deposits

July 16, 2013 balance forward \$8,258.30

Morine reported that Capital Funds have been credited to what we owe.

MOTOR MILL BRIDGE

Engelhardt and deNeui have discussed a 3-year plan for the foundation to repay the County Conservation Board for the bridge construction. Engelhardt said the next step is to prepare a list of projects and a tentative budget.

MOTOR MILL TRAIL

Nothing new to report.

STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN

Funds still continue to come in slowly. We still need approximately \$70,000. Gifford noted that fund raising for the Elkader whitewater course required meeting one-on-one with donors to ask for money.

PROMOTING MOTOR MILL

Nikolai said there have been no recent requests for programs, probably due to the summer season.

The display at Citizens State Bank in Strawberry Point will continue through July.

BOARD MEMBERS & TOUR GUIDES

Nikolai urged board members to continue to look for more volunteers.

BUSINESS PLAN

Engelhardt is preparing a critique of the business plan drafted by Nikolai.

Nikolai suggested that the foundation will need to get substantial funding from agricultural corporations, such as Cargill, Pillsbury, and others.

Collins pointed out the need to improve our inside interpretive programs, in addition to the current focus on the physical facilities.

Nikolai proposed including the interpretive plan on the agenda for the August 20 board meeting. He will invite Dave Metz, from the Pine Creek Mill, to come to participate in the discussion.

MOTOR MILL MEMORIES

Joleen Jansen made three copies of the video from the Motor Mill Memories session on June 11. The DVDs will be circulated for board members to review.

ART/HISTORY ON WEBSITE

Stone reported that Joleen Jansen will place photos on the website when the board decides how they should be displayed. Nikolai moved on behalf of deNeui to use Facebook, press releases, and the website to solicit photos to tell "stories in stone" on the website. Lenth seconded. Carried

SUMMER PARADES AND CLAYTON COUNTY FAIR

The foundation will have the usual float in the Elkader Sweet Corn Days parade on Saturday, July 20.

We will have a booth at the Clayton County Fair July 31-August 4. We will continue the "Stories in Stone" theme. In addition to our brochures, the booth will include the banner with the Travel Guide photo, and copies of the Travel Guide and Turkey River Water Trail maps.

DAVE METZ

Nikolai will invite Dave Metz from the Pine Creek Mill to come in August to pick up a grinder that we salvaged from Potter's Mill at Bellevue. We hope the trip could involve a session with Dave on interpretation plans at Motor.

MERCHANDISE

After a mouse damaged two caps, a t-shirt, and a hoodie in the display case at Motor, Morine has made repairs to plug the holes in the case. Board members bought the damaged items at discount prices.

NEW BUSINESS

Collins reported on her trip to Pickwick Mill in southeastern Minnesota. She noted that the mill machinery will be operating September 14-15. The board discussed a field trip to the site, and to Dell's Mill, near Augusta, Wis., on that weekend.

Lenth reported that Menno Borntrager, who built windows for the Mill and Cooperage, lost his home and other buildings in a recent fire. The board members signed a sympathy card to send to him.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

TURKEY RIVER RECREATIONAL CORRIDOR

Engelhardt reported that the "Paddle-Pedal-Putt" biking, canoeing, golfing triathlon was postponed because of high water. It has been rescheduled for August 4.

There is a golf tournament at the Elkader and Valley courses on Sept. 28-29.

TRRC will receive the Volunteer of the Year award from the Clayton County Development Group.

The "Safari" program to promote sites in the Turkey River Corridor has been going very well. It will continue through Labor Day. Information packets are still available at libraries.

GROUND

The Motor Mill sign designed and donated by Mark Collins should be installed at Hazel and Galaxy Roads on July 18.

Morine suggested a reminder to county officials about the need for a "No Semis" sign on Galaxy Road at Communia.

EDUCATION

Buchholz has made copies of a number of documents from the Garnavillo Museum that are related to Motor Mill.

Betty (Klink) Johnson has donated a number of items to the foundation, including the original, framed certificate from the National Register of Historic Places.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, August 20, at Osborne.

ADJOURNMENT

Nikolai adjourned the meeting about 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry A. Stone, secretary