

MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION

Minutes

June 17, 2014

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, June 17. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Other board members present were Jon deNeui, Chuck Morine, Larry Stone, and Ellen Collins. Clayton County Conservation Board director Tim Engelhardt, naturalist Abbey Harkrader, and intern Traci Ott also attended. Sandy Refle was a guest.

MINUTES

deNeui moved to approve the minutes of the May 20 meeting as printed and distributed. Stone seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

May 20 beginning balance	\$8,277.27
Receipts	
May 27 – donations	\$253.75
Merchandise sales	\$27.00
June 7 – donations	\$80.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$360.75
Expenses	
May 21 – Esser's Menswear - merchandise	\$393.23
May 23 – cash for change	\$40.00
June 13 – Allam-Clayton Elec.	\$34.46
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$467.69
June 17, 2014 balance	\$8,170.33

CONSERVATION RESERVE

May 20 balance brought forward (negative)	(\$70,122.22)
Deposits	
Iowa Room – t-shirt	\$15.00
Expenses	
Pro-Build bits, screws	\$29.74
June 17, 2014 balance carried forward (negative)	(\$70,136.96)

CAPITAL FUND

May 20, 2014 balance brought forward	\$11,033.30
Receipts	
Ed & Melissa Patrick, IMO of Helen Patrick	\$50.00
Darrell Schaper	\$100.00
June 17, 2014 balance carried forward	\$11,183.30

INDEPENDENCE TOUR

The board discussed their visit to Heartland Acres and the Wapsipinicon Mill at Independence on June 3. Touring these museums prompted several ideas that might be useful at Motor.

Nikolai has found a supplier that could make souvenir flour sacks that we could sell. He also liked the Wapsi Mill's interpretive displays of grinding grain and dressing a millstone, and their practice of giving wooden nickels to visitors.

Harkrader has looked into acquiring grinding stones that could be used for hands-on demonstrations.

Collins met with an Aurora, Ia., model builder who might be willing to build a scale model of a turbine like the ones used at Motor Mill.

INTERN REPORT

Ott distributed a revised text for guides to use for tours at Motor. She asked for comments and critiques. She's especially interested in more Mill stories. (Refle suggested that Ilo Rhines of Edgewood might have stories of her relatives that operated a still near Motor.)

Ott is developing a scavenger hunt activity for children at the Mill.

After some discussion, the board agreed that Ott would work with Engelhardt to apply to Upper Mississippi Gaming for a grant to laminate Dave Metz's drawings of Motor Mill and to acquire model millstones to use for grinding demonstrations.

Ott is developing a lesson plan to explain the use of grinding stones. She also is making a time line of Mill history from geologic times to the present.

Ott has discussed interpretive ideas with Angi Reid, who formerly worked for both the Clayton County Conservation Board and Silos and Smokestacks. She also met with Laura Elvers, a new staff interpreter at Silos and Smokestacks.

MOTOR MILL TRAIL

Engelhardt has sent a revised concept statement to the Iowa Department of Transportation. The new idea is to put the trail on the right-of-way of Grandview Road.

REGIONAL TRAIL COUNT

A regional trail users count is planned for one weekend day and one week-day between July 12 and July 19. Engelhardt asked for volunteers to help.

STORIES IN STONE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Nikolai asked if the "Friend of Motor Mill" envelopes could be reprinted to include our new mission statement. Engelhardt said the County Conservation Board could arrange for the printing.

Nikolai suggested passing out "friends" envelopes rather than Motor Mill brochures at parades. Stone noted that we need to build awareness of the Motor Mill Historic Site, so brochures are still appropriate.

MOTOR PROMOTIONS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Nikolai urged board members to continue to attempt to recruit new members and tour guides, and to look for venues to speak about the historic site.

Nikolai discussed an upcoming Iowa Museum Association "non-profit boards in transition" workshop, where a speaker would lead discussions of how to cope with the lack of volunteers to keep non-profits viable. Several board members expressed skepticism about the value of such a meeting. The board took no action.

BUSINESS PLAN

Nikolai and Engelhardt reported no additional progress on developing the business plan.

ANNUAL EVENT/FUND RAISER

The board has settled on a September 13 event that could include an interpretive walk similar to the November 2013 holiday walk, as well as an ice cream social. Other activities might include music and a canoe/kayak float. A planning committee will be appointed at the July meeting.

CONSTRUCTION DISCUSSION

Collins voiced concern that the fluorescent lights and a possible dropped ceiling in the Mill are not historically appropriate. Others agreed, and the group discussed how to decide what are appropriate ways to make a historic structure accessible to modern visitors.

deNeui noted plans to bring in electrical and phone service to be able to eliminate the use of temporary drop cords. Collins asked if grants might be available to pay for the estimated \$3,000 cost of the project.

Collins moved that all future construction plans affecting the Mill should be discussed by the board before the work commences. deNeui seconded. Carried.

Engelhardt said a "historical briefs" publication from the National Register of Historic Places might have some suggestions on modern lighting for historic buildings

OPEN ITEMS

deNeui has given bookcase plans to Roger Buchholz for him to work on when he returns from vacation.

The Rivers and Bluffs Scenic Byway is working on interpretive signs for the route. Motor Mill is a related site.

The Turkey River Recreational Corridor plans a "turkey trot" fun run in November.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities – deNeui reported that repairs to the Mill roof for shingles blown off last winter will have to wait until we install more floor joist on the sixth floor to facilitate construction crews reaching the roof hatch.

Volunteers will be working on stair railings soon.

Grounds – Engelhardt needs to do a safety audit of the buildings

Engelhardt suggested that we lower top sashes of the windows, rather than raising the lower sashes, to reduce the hazard of people falling out.

The pressure tank on the well has been replaced, so water is available again at Motor.

Communications – Nikolai is getting Scenic Byway information from the Corps of Engineers.

NEXT MEETING

The next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, at the Osborne Conservation Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Nikolai adjourned the meeting about 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary