

MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION

Minutes

May 19, 2015

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, May 19. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order about 7:05 p.m. Other board members present were Chuck Morine, Larry Stone, Jon DeNeui, Ivan Hardt, and Lee Lenth. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Mark Collins and Ron Kaiser were guests

MINUTES

Nikolai accepted the minutes of the April 21 meeting as distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

| | |
|---|---------------|
| April 21 beginning balance | \$7,845.63 |
| Receipts | |
| May 5 - Donations at the Mill | \$62.50 |
| Expenses – Allam-Clayton Elec | \$32.51 |
| Cash for change | \$40.00 |
| Jansen Products – web hosting | \$144.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$216.51 |
| May 19 balance | \$7,691.62 |
| CONSERVATION RESERVE (no change from April) | |
| April 21, 2015 balance brought forward (negative) | (\$47,888.47) |
| May 19, 2015 balance carried forward | (\$47,888.47) |

MOTOR MILL TRAIL

Jenna Pollock and Tucker Anderson will be hand-delivering invitations to landowners to attend a June meeting to hear their questions and concerns about a possible trail. Pollock said she wants first of all to assure landowners that trail advocates understand the sensitive issue of potentially developing a trail on private lands.

STORIES IN STONE BRIDGE DEBT REDUCTION CAMPAIGN

Nikolai noted the recent success of an \$11-million Northeast Iowa Community College campaign.

Collins suggesting setting a Motor campaign goal, then using a “goal thermometer” to visually show the public our progress. He also advocated sending annual fund-raising letters to potential supporters.

Nikolai noted possible grants opportunities from Upper Mississippi Gaming and the Clayton County Foundation for the Future.

Hardt suggested asking businesses or individuals for in-kind donations, such as excavation help with the silt from the basement of the Mill.

The group discussed the logistics of silt removal. deNeui is continuing to work on those arrangements, with possible help from the Clayton County engineer.

Pollock said Kevin Walch, owner of The Irish Shanti in Gunder, suggested preparing a Motor Mill video that could be shown at businesses around northeast Iowa. She said our summer intern might work on such a video.

Pollock also discussed a Clayton County Development Group proposal to install a “Hy Spy” device, which could play Motor Mill audio messages while visitors used a telescope to observe the surrounding area. The machine is coin operated, and the money could go to Motor Mill.

BOARD MEMBERS

Nikolai has invited several people to be tour guides and/or board members, but all have declined. He urged members to look for new volunteers.

ROOF REPAIR

deNeui will again attempt to get the contractor to complete repairs on the roof.

ALTERNATIVE USES FOR MOTOR MILL

Nikolai has heard a suggestion that Motor could be a site for commercial sales of period food, crafts and other items. He asked whether members of the Amish community might be interested in such an enterprise. Lenth said he doubted if his Amish friends would be receptive, but he agreed to inquire.

deNeui proposed a regional event for vendors to sell art, crafts, baked goods, or other items. Pollock cautioned that a large gathering could cause environmental damage to the site. Stone wondered whether a "flea market" might convey the wrong image of the Motor Mill Historic Site.

OLD BUSINESS

Lee and Verna Lenth have completed the mock stone donor recognition board, and it is in place at the Mill. Nikolai has ordered plaques honoring nine more people who have donated \$200 or more.

We're still looking for ideas for using art on the website.

There have been minor updates to the website and the Facebook page.

The board discussed how the bookcase in the Osborne conference room should be used. Pollock noted that the shelves are too narrow for some of our publications. The Conservation Board and staff will be considering options.

One of the projects of our summer intern may be to produce another issue of our newsletter, Milling Around.

NEW BUSINESS

Nikolai will prepare a certificate of appreciation for Fred Stroschein for his many years of work as a Motor Mill volunteer.

Jane Gephart of Delhi has requested a group tour on Wednesday, June 10, about 1:30 p.m. Nikolai will be in touch with her about arrangements.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

TRRC – Pollock and deNeui attended the May 5 TRRC meeting in Elkader. Upcoming events included: the regional trail count will be May 15-16; the start of the Turkey River Safari May 25; the TRI-P (pedal, paddle, putt) June 28; the "Great River Rumble" beginning at Elkader on July 25; the Iowa State Fair booth on Aug. 13.

GROUNDS – deNeui said volunteers have begun replacing the joist and flooring on the main floor of the Mill.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting is June 16 at 7 p.m. at the Osborne Conservation Center.

ADJOURNMENT – Nikolai adjourned the meeting about 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary