

MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION

Minutes

April 19, 2016

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held at the Osborne Conservation Center on Tuesday, April 19, 2016. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order about 7:05 p.m. Other board members present were Chuck Morine, Les Klink, Larry Stone, Lee Lenth, Ivan Hardt, and Ken Zichal. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Ron Kaiser, David Beck, Jane Metcalf, Steve Mayne, and Peter Kann were guests.

MINUTES

Hardt moved to approve the minutes of the March 15 meeting as distributed. Zichal seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine submitted the following monthly report:

March 15 beginning balance	\$8,643.41
<i>Expenses</i>	
April 8 - Allam-Clayton Elec	\$32.53
April 19 balance	\$8,610.88

CONSERVATION RESERVE

March 16, 2016 balance brought forward (negative)	(\$45,673.69)
Deposit – Iowa Room, one hoodie	\$25.00
April 19, 2016 balance carried forward	(\$45,648.69)

Morine submitted a bill from Jansen Products for \$144 for web hosting and \$45 for renewal of our domain name, and moved to pay the \$189 total. Lenth seconded. Carried.

Morine said he had responded to an Internal Revenue Service inquiry about on minor oversight on our tax return. He resubmitted one page to correct the error.

OLD BUSINESS

TELEPHONE AND ELECTRICAL AT MILL

Nikolai arranged with Alpine Communications to install a phone line with a jack on the utility pole near the Mill. Whenever anyone is working at the Mill, they should connect the hand set in the Mill to the outside jack for emergency purposes. The phone number is 563-245-0030. The only costs will be a one-time installation charge and monthly excise taxes.

The board also discussed the prospect of installing electrical service inside the Mill. In August 2013, Jon DeNeui received an estimate from Gregorson Electric of \$3,311.74. The board took no action, but agreed that electrical service is desirable as soon as possible.

TOUR GUIDES

Nikolai has talked with Madonna Hosch and Terry Cole and Mary Jane Keppler-Cole, who have agreed to help with tours at the Mill this season. Jane Metcalf and David Beck also will help. Nikolai said people also are needed to greet and register visitors, as well as conduct tours. New guides may start by shadowing experienced guides.

Hardt suggested a workshop at the Mill to orient new guides. The board decided to hold that training session at 5 p.m. on May 17, immediately preceding the next board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

MAY 6 or 7 TOUR

Nikolai is awaiting word from a camping group of about 20 people regarding which which day they would like to tour Motor Mill. He will contact board members to help.

RIVER BLUFFS SCENIC BYWAY COMPREHESIVE MASTER PLAN

Pollock is working with the River Bluffs Scenic Byway board to update their comprehensive master plan. RBSB suggested that each entity (such as Motor Mill) include high priority items from their vision plans in the RBSB master plan to improve opportunities for grants. Pollock recommended these: 1) roof repair on the Icehouse, Cooperage, and Mill; 2) upgrading the Inn; 3) seeking a full-time staff person; 4) installing electrical, phone, and security lines in the Mill.

INTERN UPDATE

Pollock reported that our grant application to Silos and Smokestacks to pay for a summer intern was denied. However, the Clayton County Conservation Board has budgeted to hire an intern. Jessica Wegmann, an Elkader resident who is a marketing and business major at the University of Northern Iowa, begins work May 9.

SILOS AND SMOKESTACKS 2016 ANNUAL MEETING & GRANT AWARD

Pollock attended the 2016 Silos and Smokestacks annual meeting in Des Moines on April 4. At the meeting, Motor Mill received a \$500 grant to be used at our discretion.

TRAINING FOR GUIDES/INTERPRETERS

The board agreed to meet at the Mill on 5 p.m. on May 17, just prior to the regular meeting, to review Mill projects and familiarize new guides with tours for the public.

UPDATES

RESTORATION

Flooring – Nikolai reported that the yellow pine lumber has been received and shipped to Cresco, and has been milled into tongue-and-groove flooring. Nikolai and Lenth hope to travel to Cresco with the County Conservation Board trailer to get the flooring as soon as possible.

Mill roof repairs – Pollock has been in touch with the State Historical Society to inform them of the need for shingle replacement on the Mill.

Grounds – Nikolai and Stone installed the traffic counter on the north end of the bridge on April 1. (The counter was donated by Hardt.) As of April 15, 356 vehicles had crossed the bridge.

EDUCATION

Nikolai has communicated with a professor at the University of Wisconsin (Madison) who intends to bring architectural students to Motor to make as-built drawings of the buildings.

Ken Zichal researched a painting of Motor Mill by Edward Bruns that once hung in the Iowa Governor's mansion in Des Moines. He determined that the painting was one of at least two Motor scenes painted by Bruns, who was a contemporary of Grant Wood. Zichal was unable to find the current location of the painting. He is continuing to attempt to reach members of the Bruns family for more information.

The board also discussed a painting by Helen Klinoff, a print of which hangs in the Osborne conference room. David Beck, who is a Klinoff family relative, said he also has a copy of the painting.

MERCHANDISE

Morine has ordered a supply of t-shirts and caps for the summer tour season.

TRAIL DISCUSSION

Pollock has continued discussions with the Iowa DOT about the Motor Mill trail funds. She has sent IDOT a letter stating that we are unable to proceed with original route, but we are exploring other alternatives. It is still uncertain how long the original grant money might be available for a different route.

The Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission has approved a grant for 2020 for the city of Elkader and the Clayton County Conservation Board to pay for preliminary engineering for a trail between Elkader and Elgin.

STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

A group of student volunteers from Central School will be helping to clean the Mill starting at about 1:30 p.m. on Monday, April 25. Board members are encouraged to come to help.

NEXT MEETING - The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 17, at 5 p.m., at Motor Mill. New tour guides are especially encouraged to attend for orientation. Please note time and place change.

ADJOURNMENT – Morine moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Hardt seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary