

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

DRAFT

December 20, 2016

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2016, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Other members present were Lee Lenth, David Beck, Larry Stone, Chuck Morine, Jane Metcalf, and Ken Zichal. Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock, and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

Agenda

Nikolai asked to put an item on the agenda to discuss the mailing of envelopes to solicit donations and ask people to become "Friends of Motor Mill." However, that already is being done by Conservation Board staff.

Lenth moved to approve the agenda as printed. Zichal seconded. Carried.

Minutes

Harkrader noted that the correct number of 2016 visitors to Motor was 1054, not 1045. Stone moved to approve the minutes with that correction. Lenth seconded. Carried.

Treasurer's Report

Morine presented the following financial report:

November 15 – Beginning balance	\$8,727.20
Receipts	
Dec. 7 – donation, Swales Precast	\$500.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$500.00
Expenses	
Nov. 18 – Alpine Communications	\$14.52
Dec. 7 – Allamakee Clayton Elec.	\$342.67
Dec. 8 – Grau Logs & Lumber	\$806.40
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$853.59
CURRENT BALANCE	\$8,776.13

CONSERVATION RESERVE

November 15, 2016 balance brought forward (negative)	(\$43,818.76)
Deposits – Dean & Sandy Refle donation	\$75.00
December 20, 2016 balance carried forward (negative)	(\$43,743.76)

Morine moved to accept the treasurer's report. Zichal seconded. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

PROGRESS ON ICEHOUSE/SMOKEHOUSE ROOF

Nikolai said an Amish crew helped one day. The roof is now stripped, the north side repairs are done, and about one-third of the north side shingling is done. Further work depends on the weather.

Nikolai noted that he and Gary Goyette had inspected the Ice House after a recent break-in, but apparently nothing was stolen.

VANDALISM

Lenth reported on two recent vandalism incidents. On the morning of Friday, Dec. 2, it was discovered that someone had taken off and stolen the shutters on the middle window on the first floor. There also was damage to the downstream door and to the upstream door and door frame. Lenth and Stone put plywood over the window, and fixed the latch on the upstream door, Lenth will repair a broken board on the downstream door.

On the morning of Friday, December 16, it was discovered that the doors on the Cooperage and the Icehouse had been broken open – although nothing was missing. Stone and Lenth repaired the latches on both doors. After an investigation by Conservation Board and sheriff's officers, charges are pending against a possible perpetrator.

UPDATE ON COUNTY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Pollock said site preparation has begun for a new Conservation Board shop at Osborne.

Work is essentially complete to stabilize the bank and install a canoe ramp at Turkey River Park. The part of the project at the adjacent City of Elkader lift station is pending.

The county hopes to receive a Marine Fuel Tax grant for new canoe accesses at Motor Mill and at Volga.

Work will commence as soon as weather permits to stabilize the Roberts Creek and Turkey River banks, and to resurface parts of the Pony Hollow Trail.

The county has submitted a grant application to renovate the pond at Osborne.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT

Stone reopened the discussion about setting up a Motor Mill account under the Clayton County Foundation for the Future/Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. It takes \$2,000 to open the account, and withdrawals of up to 5% per year can be made when the account reaches \$10,000. Donors to the endowment can receive a 25% Iowa income tax credit. Stone cited examples of successful fund drives when donors are given the option of contributing for immediate projects, and/or giving to an endowment that's designed to provide long-term funding to maintain facilities.

Zichal agreed with the endowment concept, but said we also need to have a list of immediate needs (such as is in the Motor vision plan) to give to potential contributors.

Stone moved to establish an endowment with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, and pledged \$500. Zichal seconded, and pledged \$5,000. Motion carried. Stone agreed to follow up with M. J. Smith, of the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. He expects to have completed the paperwork within the week.

2017 SEASON OPEN WEEKENDS

We will plan to open the Motor Mill site for tours on these weekends in 2017:
May 13-14, May 27-28, June 10-11, June 24-25, July 8-9, July 22-23, Aug. 5-6,
Aug. 19-20, Sept. 2-4, Sept. 16-17, Sept. 30 & Oct. 1, Oct. 14-15 (Heritage Days.)

SILOS AND SMOKESTACKS

Pollock said Silos and Smokestacks has urged us to apply for a grant for an intern for 2017. (We received grants in 2014 and 2015, but not in 2016.)

Stone moved to apply for a Silos and Smokestacks grant to pay for a summer intern. Lenth seconded. Carried. Harkrader and Stone will write the application, with assistance from Metcalf.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTOR MILL SECURITY

Nikolai distributed information on a Moultrie security camera with infrared flash. He suggested two cameras, costing about \$130 each.

Pollock said the Conservation Board is considering a surveillance camera system that is compatible with Clayton County's law enforcement computer system. That package costs about \$4,000. The Board of Supervisors have suggested applying for a grant to cover the system.

Pollock asked whether there are legal issues with how cameras may be placed on public property. Nikolai agreed to do more research on the camera proposal, and to report at the January meeting.

TRAFFIC COUNTER

Stone reported that more than 16,000 vehicles were tallied on the traffic counter at the Motor Mill bridge from April through November. The counter has been removed to avoid being damaged by snowplows during the winter.

PENNY AT THE PUMP

The IOCO station in Garnavillo supports charities by pledging one cent per gallon of fuel sold during a specified time. Harkrader suggested that we apply to be the sponsored charity in May, when the Mill will be open for tours.

Board members will approach other independent gas stations about hosting similar fund drives.

It was suggested that Motor Mill brochures be made available at the stores during such promotions. Pollock said we have a grant to print 5,000 new brochures. The RC&D staff will begin work on the project in January.

UPDATES

Morine has received a copy of the Pine Creek Mill newsletter. It will be available at Osborne.

Lenth proposed a field trip to Pine Creek or another working mill in 2017.

Pollock has filed a request with FEMA to receive \$20,000 to remove silt from the Mill basement and to inject the support posts with anti-microbials following the floods of 2016.

Siebright Construction of Postville completed Mill roof repairs on November 15. However, several more shingles were blown off a few days later. deNeui has been in touch with Siebrecht to discuss the situation.

Nikolai will talk with Chris Schoen to suggest that we inform the State Historical Society of our intent to replace the rotting basement support posts.

ADJOURNMENT

Lenth moved to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Zichal seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary
Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County