

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

**DRAFT**

January 15, 2019

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Chairman John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Other members present were Larry Stone, Lee Lenth, Ken Zichal, Jane Metcalf, David Beck, and Chris Schoen. Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended.

**AGENDA**

Stone moved to approve the agenda as distributed. Zichal seconded. Carried.

**MINUTES**

Schoen moved to approve the minutes of the Dec. 18, 2018 meeting, with the correction to list Lee Lenth's name only once in the attendees. Lenth seconded. Carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Dec. 18 - Beginning balance \$25,267.16

RECEIPTS

Dec. 20 – donation \$10.00

Jan. 07 – donation, Steve & Ann McCorkindale \$250.00

Donation – Jack Freeman \$50.00

Donation – Citizens State Bank, Strawberry Pt. \$100.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS \$410.00

## EXPENSES

Jan. 02 - Jane Metcalf, LED lights for bridge	\$96.24
Jan. 06 – Hackett’s Porta Potty, Art Show	\$74.90
Jan. 06 – Allam. Clayton Elec Coop	\$59.74
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$230.88
Jan. 15 - CURRENT BALANCE	\$25,447.18

Stone moved to accept the treasurer’s report as presented. Zichal seconded. Carried

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### 1 – Inn Visioning

Pollock, Harkrader, Stone, Nikolai, and Metcalf met before the regular meeting to brainstorm ideas for rehabilitating and using the Inn. The discussion included: dealing with floods; sewer and water options; use as a B&B; use as a conference center; use as a caretaker residence; use as a visitor center; whether it could be used year-round. It was agreed that we should consult an architect and the State Historic Preservation Office.

### 2 – Acquisition of oat cleaner and scales

Stone reported that Mary Klink prefers to wait until spring for us to remove the oat cleaner from her shed. Harry Robbins also wants to wait until spring for us to remove the Mederville Creamery scale from his shed.

Beck showed photos of the original Motor Mill scale that is housed at the George Maier Museum. He hopes to make a presentation to the Maier board to negotiate a way to display the scale at Motor Mill.

### 3 – LED lights for the bridge

Metcalf purchased 300 feet of LED Christmas light from Elkader True Value. At least another 100 feet will be needed.

#### 4 – Well at the Inn

After shock chlorination, tests by the Iowa State Hygienic Lab showed the water is safe for individual use. Nikolai was unable to locate any records of the well. He was told by DNR employees that any well drilled since 1978 must be grouted to be used for a public water supply. It would cost about \$3-\$5,000 to have a remote camera inspect the interior of the well.

It would cost \$4-\$6,000 to install a septic system.

#### 5 – 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plans

The board discussed whether to have a celebration in 2019, to commemorate the completion of the Mill, or in 2020 to acknowledge the “Legal Statute of Limitation.” The consensus was to hold a bridge lighting event on November 23 and to note the upcoming anniversaries.

Metcalf suggested that participants in the Motor Mill Art Show be encouraged to create works celebrating the 150-year history.

#### 6 – Mill Basement Silt Removal

The board discussed the logistics of removing silt from the basement. Stone voiced concerns that any access road should not damage the historic dam abutment. He also suggested finding a way to move silt upriver and stockpile it on the west end of the property for later hauling to dump on the road shoulder north of the Stable.

Before proceeding, we will need to confirm permission from the county Secondary Roads Department, and to get an updated estimate of the cost and feasibility of an access road.

### ***NEW BUSINESS***

#### 1 – Grants

Pollock is preparing a grant application asking the Clayton County Foundation for the Future for \$1,000 to match Ruth Grau’s donation of \$5,000 for interpretive signs for the Grau Savanna. Zichal moved to authorize Pollock to submit the application. Schoen seconded. Carried.

Pollock has learned that a “Saving America’s Treasures” grant designated for National Historic Register sites is not available at this time. She may pursue it later.

## 2 – Mill machinery and equipment storage and display

The board discussed where to put several pieces of old milling equipment, some of which are stored off site. It was agreed that equipment similar to what may have been used at Motor should be used for interpretive displays.

The board would consider donating unrelated machinery or equipment to other museums or mills.

The board reached no decision on what to do with power tools now stored in the Mill.

The board agreed to clean up and store or dispose of materials on the upper floors of the Mill.

## **UPDATES**

Lenth distributed copies of an *Old Mill News* article on “Dating the Age of Old Lumber from Evidence of Saw-marks.”

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Stone moved to adjourn the meeting about 8:11 p.m. Beck seconded. Carried.

The board then celebrated Lenth’s 81<sup>st</sup> birthday with cake he provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary