

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

June 16, 2020

DRAFT

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, June 16, by way of a virtual ZOOM connection. The electronic meeting was deemed necessary because of concerns over spread of COVID-19 via an in-person meeting. President John Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Other members present online or by phone were Ken Zichal, Chris Schoen, Lee Lenth, Chuck Morine, Mark Yackel-Juleen, Jon deNeui, and Larry Stone. Clayton County Conservation Board naturalist Abbey Harkrader and intern Nick Friedmann also attended via ZOOM. Jane Metcalf joined via ZOOM about 7:10 p.m. Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock signed on about 8 p. m.

**AGENDA**

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

**MINUTES**

Stone moved to approve the minutes of the May 19 meeting as distributed. Schoen seconded. Carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Morine sent the following treasurer's report to board members prior to the meeting:

May. 19	Beginning balance	30,970.22
Receipts		
May 20	donation, old machinery, Roger Thomas	1,100.00
May 20	donation, Amazon	5.00
June 15	donation, old machinery, Roger Thomas	50.00
Total Receipts		1,155.00

## Expenses

May 27	Central State Bank, check order	21.75
June 15	Alla. Clayton Electric	42.27
June 15	Alpine Communications	16.60

Total Expenses	80.62
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Current Balance, June 16	32,044.60
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Zichal moved to accept the treasurer's report. Schoen seconded. Carried.

## Claims

Stone moved to approve a claim from Raymond Nestles for \$250 for painting the Mill roof hatch and repairing shingles on the roof. Zichal seconded. Carried.

## OLD BUSINESS

1 – SILT REMOVAL – Nikolai reported that he, Stone, and Lenth removed the lower basement windows on June 9 in anticipation of a flood. They replaced the windows June 16.

Stone reported that Greg Anderson of Elkader has voiced concerns over whether removing the silt might increase the chances of flood damage to the Mill. Gary Goyette submitted a report downplaying that concern, due to the way the Mill was constructed.

Zichal noted that a larger concern might be how to keep silt out once it has been removed. The board discussed whether the arches could be covered. Schoen said the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) might require that any covering be inside, so as not to change the outer appearance of the Mill.

deNeui suggested that wooden planks secured over the arches on the outside of the building might reduce the pulsing of floodwaters and the accumulation of silt.

Nikolai said he has attempted to contact John Moyna to see whether we can borrow a lime conveyor to move silt up to trucks from the basement. Nikolai also has placed an ad in the Farm Bureau Spokesman trying to locate a tracked skid loader. Nikolai has asked Gifford Insurance for a quotation on the type of liability insurance that might be needed for the project.

2 – SALE OF INDUSTRIAL ARTS MACHINES – Roger Thomas has sold two more pieces of equipment for a total of \$1,150. He has three more machines to sell.

3 – ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS – Nikolai received three bids for installing electrical power in the Mill: Gregorson Electric, \$20,869; Wessel Electric, \$16,846; and Electri-Tek, \$33,920.

Nikolai will meet with Jon deNeui and Tim Walker to discuss the bids and to be sure the quotes are for equivalent materials and services.

4 – FACEBOOK AND WEBSITE VIDEOS – Metcalf and Harkrader have placed the introductory video on Facebook and the Motor Mill website. Metcalf also hiked the Grau Savanna trail to get ideas for a virtual tour. Harkrader has posted one virtual Savanna tour, but the board agreed that seasonal updates would be popular. Metcalf noted that Dave Beck had been making drone photos of the Savanna Trail, but has lost his drone on the savanna. The board discussed helping Beck replace the machine.

Metcalf suggested making videos with stories about each of the buildings at the Motor Mill Historic site.

5 – SUMMER TOURS – Metcalf and Harkrader participated in a Silos and Smokestacks Zoom meeting about how and when to reopen. There are many different approaches.

Harkrader suggested forming a committee to consider the options and make a recommendation. Zichal noted that it might be advisable to open only one day per weekend. He said the Covid-19 virus only lives 3-6 days in the environment, so a week between tours would help keep visitors and tour guides safe.

Zichal, Harkrader, Metcalf, Schoen, Nikolai, and Friedmann agreed to serve on the reopening committee. The group will meet Tuesday, June 23, from 2-4 p.m. at Osborne. Stone moved to authorize the committee to set the appropriate date to open for tours. Yackel-Juleen seconded. Carried.

6 – STABLE PROJECT – Pollock met at the Stable with Nikolai, deNeui, Schoen, and Friedmann to discuss repair and remodeling ideas. Pollock and Stone also met with Mike Tucker of Martin-Gardner Architecture, who recommended hiring an engineer to evaluate the integrity of the building. Pollock agreed with that suggestion, noting that the information could be essential when applying for an Upper Mississippi Gaming grant for Stable repairs.

Stone moved to approve hiring the engineer to evaluate the Stable. Schoen seconded. Carried.

The board discussed where to move machines, lumber, and other materials stored in the Stable. Pollock said some things could be moved to Osborne, while others could be put in the white garage at the site.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1 – NICK FRIEDMANN, INTERN – Friedmann reported that he has worked on the newsletter, displays for the upper floors of the Mill, and Facebook posts. He also has helped volunteers with preparations for silt removal, and has assisted Kenny Slocum with vegetation management on the Grau Savanna.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Zichal moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Schoen seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

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