

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

February 16, 2021

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, February 2021, by way of a virtual ZOOM connection, which was deemed necessary because of concerns over spread of COVID-19. Those present online were: John Nikolai, David Beck, Chris Schoen, Ken Zichal, Jane Metcalf, Larry Stone, Mark Yackel-Juleen, Chuck Morine and Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and CCCB naturalist Abbey Harkrader. Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**AGENDA**

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

**MINUTES**

Stone moved to approve the minutes of the January 19 meeting as distributed. Zichal seconded. Carried.

**FINANCIAL REPPORT**

Morine submitted the following treasurer's report:

Jan. 18	Beginning balance	\$20,107.13
	Receipts	
Jan. 29	- John Nikolai - Josh Funk picture purchase	100.00
Feb. 11	- CCC Board - photo contest entries	18.51
	Total Receipts	118.51
	Expenses	
Feb. 01	ETAB, tax preparation	190.00
Feb. 11	West Bend Mutual Insurance	400.00
Feb. 11	Allamakee Clayton Electric	42.43
Feb. 11	CCC Board, photo contest awards	36.00
	Total Expenses	668.43
Feb. 18	current balance	\$19,557.21

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1 - WOOD TURBINE UPDATE – Schoen has been regularly checking the turbines, which are temporarily stored in the garage of the old nature center at Osborne. He said the moisture content has been stable.

Nikolai contacted Adam Pollock, at Fire Farm, about the best way to package and ship the turbines. One option is to secure them with bands of steel or other material.

Schoen and other board members voiced concern about bands damaging the turbines, and suggested packing them in wooden crates instead. Nikolai will follow up with Pollock to discuss the idea.

The board also discussed how to transport the turbines. Nikolai has offered the use of his horse trailer and truck. The board also discussed renting a vehicle. Jenna Pollock offered the use of her father's large enclosed trailer.

Schoen is attempting to arrange his schedule for the trip, and to coordinate with the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory, which will work on the turbines.

2 – LIGHTING IN THE MILL – Metcalf said the lighting committee tentatively plans to meet on March 1 to look at duct tape and paint samples to camouflage the conduit, and consider whether the sample light fixture is appropriate.

3 – INN GRANT – Pollock said the Rural Heritage Revitalization grant application has been submitted. Successful applicants will be notified about May 1.

Pollock also is investigating a Rural Innovation grant, which can be used to repurpose buildings for community use.

4 – STABLE UPDATE – Due to a lack of bidders, the County Conservation Board tabled the awarding of bids for work on the Stable. Stone has been in touch with a builder from Decorah and a contractor from Dyersville about looking at the project. Both showed an interest in visiting the site when the weather moderates. Stone hopes they can come within a week.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1 – STATE FAIR – Nikolai said the Clayton County Historical Preservation has offered to let the Motor Mill Foundation share a booth at the Iowa State on Wednesday, August 18, at no charge. The board discussed whether the pandemic is expected to ease enough by then that members might feel comfortable at such a large gathering. The board took no action, but agreed to keep the State Fair option open.

2 – COVERING THE ARCHES – Nikolai has made preliminary drawings of how planks could be used to cover the arch openings in the Motor Mill basement to keep out flood debris and silt. Several board members voiced concern about changing the historic appearance of the Mill. Zichal wondered if there would be a way to install the planks only when a flood is imminent, rather than have barriers in place permanently. Nikolai agreed to contact John Moyna to ask for advice.

3 – ELGIN TO ELKADER TRAIL – Pollock explained that the City of Elkader and the County Conservation Board received a transportation grant to hire a consultant to look at routes in the Turkey River Recreation Corridor. The trail would connect the Fayette County trail that now ends at the Fayette/Clayton County line with the Motor Mill Trail at Elkader. A steering committee has been meeting, and expects a report from MSA consultants within a few months. The report will then be presented to the public for comments and reaction.

## **REPORTS**

TRRC – Stone attended the Turkey River Recreational Corridor meeting on February 2. Topics included: request for people to comment on the Elkader Visioning Plan, which is on the city’s website; the Turkey River Water Trail Guide is being reprinted; the Turkey River Safari will be held again this year, with Motor one of the sites; TRRC will partner with the Clayton County Conservation Board on an “Attracting Success” promotion to bring young adults and families to Clayton County; the annual “Canoecopia” event from Madison, Wisc., will be virtual this year on March 12-14.

PODCAST – Beck and Stone have scheduled an interview for a “Bluffs, Brooks and Byways” podcast to highlight Motor Mill. The podcast is produced through NE Iowa RCD.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Zichal moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Schoen seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

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