

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

(DRAFT)

May 18, 2021

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, May 18, 2021, by way of a virtual ZOOM connection, which was deemed necessary because of concerns over spread of COVID-19. Those present online were: Larry Stone, Chuck Morine, David Beck, Chris Schoen and Clayton County Conservation Board naturalist Abbey Harkrader. CCCB director Jenna Pollock and MMF board members Lee Lenth and Ken Zichal were at the Osborne Conservation Center. In the absence of Chairman John Nikolai and Vice-chair Jane Metcalf, Pollock called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

**AGENDA**

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

**MINUTES**

Morine moved to approve the April 20, 2021, minutes as distributed. Stone seconded. Carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Morine submitted the following treasurer's report:

Apr. 17	Beginning balance	19,307.31
	Receipts	
Apr. 27	donation: Kay Connelly	500.00
May 15	donation: Blackbaud Giving Fund	20.00
	donation: CCCB / PayPal	96.80
	Total Receipts	616.80

## Expenses

May 10	Allam. Clayton Electric	52.36
May 15	Alpine Communications	17.50
	Total Expenses	69.86

May 18 – Current balance 20,354.25

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

Pollock reported that the Motor Mill Endowment with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque had a balance of \$14,010.30 on March 31. The endowment received four donations totaling \$262.60 on Great Giving Day, which was May 12. Stone agreed to send thank-yous to the donors.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1 - TURBINE TRANSPORT – Chris Schoen reported on the trip to take the wooden turbines to the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory. Other than having two flat tires on Nikolai's horse trailer, and the difficulty in finding propane fuel, the trip went well. Schoen said head conservator Nichole Doub and her staff were very accommodating.

Schoen estimated that it would take several months for the laboratory to disassemble and preserve the turbines. We will be kept apprised of the progress, and will receive photos of the process.

The estimated cost is \$8,155. Stone moved to authorize Pollock to sign the contract for the turbine preservation work, and to make a down payment of \$4,077. Zichal seconded. Carried.

2 – TURBINE TRIP EXPENSES – Schoen said his only expense was for meals, and that he would donate that to the Motor Mill Foundation. Nikolai submitted a bill for \$232.63 for propane, \$584.40 for gasoline, and \$87.74 for meals. Replacement tires for the trailer were \$163.72. Stone moved to pay all those expenses, including tires. Beck seconded. Carried.

3 – PHOTO DISPLAY – Stone reported no more progress on the work history photo display.

4 – TOUR SCHEDULE – Harkrader is attempting to revise the schedule of volunteer tour guides, which is complicated by the fact that we did not receive any applicants for a summer internship. (The grant money from Silos and Smokestacks was returned.)

5 – SPRING CLEANING – Students from Central Middle School plan to spend all day on Monday, May 24, at Motor. They will clean or do other volunteer work for half the day, beginning about 8:45, then recreate the rest of the day. If any board members can be there at 8:45, it would be most helpful!

Volunteers also are needed to help finish cleaning in the Mill at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, May 26.

6 – STABLE UPDATE – We are waiting for the concrete removal and replacement contractor, Fettkether Construction, to coordinate with Dale Kittleson, who will do the interior post and beam repair. The preliminary concrete removal work needs to be completed before Kittleson can get equipment into the Stable to work on the posts and beams. Pollock will contact the Amish roofing crew to suggest they could work in August, after the interior is finished.

Lenth noted that the log that was salvaged from the dam will need to be moved out of the Stable. He proposed putting it on blocks somewhere between the Inn and the Ice House, where people might use it for a seat. An interpretive sign would be needed. Board members will work with Conservation Board staff to determine an appropriate location.

7 – GRANT UPDATES – Pollock said the MMF has received a \$125,000 Rural Heritage Revitalization grant for work on the Inn. Upper Mississippi Gaming also has approved a pre-application for another \$125,000 grant for the Inn. However, we did not receive the hoped-for Rural Innovation grant.

Pollock is investigating whether Federal Covid relief money might be used for sewer and water facilities for the Inn.

Pollock suggested we hold a public meeting to receive comments from potential users as we move forward on the Inn restoration.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1 – STOVES FROM JACKSON COUNTY – The board discussed possible use of two 1800s wood stoves obtained from the Jackson County Historical Society. The consensus was to place both on the first floor of the Mill – one in the downstream corner next to the road and one in the upstream corner, near existing chimney openings.

## **REPORTS**

1 – LIGHTING COMMITTEE – Stone has obtained 12 LED shop lights, which the lighting committee agreed could be mounted unobtrusively next to floor joists. Unfortunately, several of the electrical outlets where they would be plugged in are not connected to power. Stone has contacted the electrician to get the problem fixed. (Repairs were completed on May 21.)

2 – TRRC – Stone attended the Turkey River Recreational Corridor meeting in Elkader on May 4. Some highlights were: 1) a committee planning the Elkader to Elgin trail has told the engineers to consider a route on the north side of the Turkey River; 2) the Clayton County Conservation Board will help sponsor an “Attracting Success” summit for young professionals September 10 at the Volga City Opera House; 3) planning is under way for a trail from West Union to Echo Valley Park; 4) Conservation Board directors in Clayton, Fayette, and Winneshiek counties have prepared a fact sheet for Legislators to support the Northeast Iowa Backbone Trail; 5) the Fayette County Conservation Board and the Byways of Iowa Foundation have received Iowa Tourism awards; 6) the Turkey River Safari promotion will continue this year, with Motor as one of the sites.

3 – MILL ARCHES – Lenth and Stone have fastened the wire panels more securely to cover the arches in the Mill basement.

4 – BEAM ABOVE BASEMENT STEPS – Stone placed some foam padding and caution tape on the low beam above the basement steps.

5 – DUST CONTROL – Clayton County has proposed treating Galaxy Road with calcium chloride from Communia to Motor. Pollock will ask to have the treatment extend at least to the Stable.

6 – DISPLAY CASE – Zichal has a glass display case he would donate to Motor if there is an appropriate use for it.

7 – PLANKS NOT NEEDED FOR ARCHES – Since the board has decided not to use bridge planks to cover the Mill arches, Pollock will ask Conservation Board staff to move the pile of bridge planks to a site behind the white garage.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Stone moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Schoen seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

Motor Mill Foundation