

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

(DRAFT)

January 18, 2022

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 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. Those present included: John Nikolai, Larry Stone, Dan Slagel, Chuck Morine, Ken Zichal David Beck, and Jane Metcalf. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Vice-chair Ken Zichal called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Nikolai was only able to participate sporadically because of technical issues.

AGENDA

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

MINUTES

Beck moved to approve the minutes of the December meeting, with the date corrected to December 21. Metcalf seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dec. 21	Beginning Balance	39,610.53
	Receipts	
Dec. 20	– donation, Ed & Melissa Patrick IMO Ed Olson	25.00
Dec. 22	– donation, anonymous	250.00
Dec. 29	– donation Rita Hill	1000.00
	Bud & Myra Voss	100.00
	Carole Eldeen	50.00
	Mary Stolley	100.00
	Citizens State Bank	100.00
	Grau Logs & Lumber	100.00
	Peoples State Bank, Prairie du Chien	100.00
	Total Receipts	1825.00

Expenses	
Dec. 22 – Jansen Products LLC, web hosting	\$204.00
Dec. 31 - ending balance	41,231.53
Jan. 1, 2022 – Beginning balance	41,231.53
Receipts	
Jan. 6 – donation, D. L. Hardt	25.00
Jan. 17 – donation, Laura Elsinger	200.00
Total receipts	225.00
Expenses	
Jan. 10 – Allam-Clayton Elec	\$45.25
Total Expenses	45.25

Current balance – 1-18-22 \$41,411.28

Metcalf moved to approve the treasurer’s report. Beck seconded. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1 – UPDATE ON MASTER INTERPRETIVE PLAN MEETING – Pollock reported that Zichal, Beck, Stone, and Chris Schoen met with her on Jan. 13 to discuss ideas to present to RC&D planners. Another meeting is pending.

2 – SELF-GUIDED TOURS – Pollock said the means to make self-guided tours available will be part of the interpretive plan. A possible option might be for visitors to use their phones after the Inn work is complete and Wi-Fi becomes practical.

3 – VIDEO UPDATE – The board discussed whether updates are needed for the “Stories in Stone” introductory video. The conclusion was that the video was well done and remains adequate.

4 – PROMOTION OF MOTOR MILL – Beck noted that personal contact by the guide at the end of the tour, and assuring that visitors are satisfied with their tours, might be the best way to promote return visits.

Zichal suggested preparing short video clips to post on Facebook. They could focus on single topics, such as the millstones or the turbines. Metcalf proposed video lips of interviews with visitors.

Slagel wondered if a new T-shirt design might generate more interest. Morine noted that T-shirt sales have been minimal, although shirts and hoodies and caps may be good promotions for Motor.

In an email to board members, Nikolai proposed preparing an “early days of Motor” video.

Pollock noted that the work on the interpretive plan, along with this year’s renovation of the Inn, should generate considerable interest in Motor history.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – 2021 VISITATION – Stone reported that 19,592 vehicles were recorded on the bridge traffic counter from April 25 to November 2. That number was down slightly from the 2020 pandemic year, which saw with 19,827 vehicles in a two-week shorter time period.

Harkrader emailed a visitation report to MMF members. Some highlights were: 1415 visitors registered from 24 states and 4 foreign countries; about 150 people attended the bridge lighting; there were 90 participants in 12 camps and field trips.

REPORTS

1 - TRRC – Stone, Slagel, and Chris Schoen attended a Turkey River Recreational Corridor meeting on January 4. Fayette County naturalist Brian Gibbs said he hopes to prepare a mini-documentary about the history of the Turkey River.

Jennifer Cowser announced that there will be a meeting January 27 (postponed from January 20), at 6:15 at GEAR Elkader to discuss a trail and pedestrian bridge project suggested in a visioning plan prepared by Trees Forever.

The Clayton County Board of Supervisors voted on January 18 to appoint Ray Peterson as a representative to TRRC, with Steve Doepcke as alternate.

UPDATES

1 – INN - Pollock met with Mike Tucker of Gardner Architecture and an electrical engineer to discuss plans for the Inn renovation. Tucker hopes to have final plans to submit to the National Park Service by the end of January.

It was determined that Clayton County Conservation will be responsible for installing the new septic system, which will not be a part of the Inn renovation bid.

2 – BASEMENT POSTS – Nikolai said the oak posts are now ready at Grau Logs and Lumber, and the concrete pads are at Swales. Nikolai has left a message for Aylsworth House Moving that we are ready for them to install the posts.

ADJOURNMENT

Slagel moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Stone seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

Motor Mill Foundation