

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

(DRAFT)

March 15, 2022

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, March 15, 2022, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Those present included: John Nikolai, Larry Stone, Dan Slagel, Chuck Morine, Ken Zichal, and Chris Schoen. Clayton County Conservation Board naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Chairman Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:03 p. m.

**AGENDA**

Morine asked to add an agenda item to discuss merchandise to be sold at Motor and in the Iowa Room. Slagel requested an item to discuss the possibility of a 3-D scan of Motor Mill buildings. Stone moved to approve the agenda as amended. Zichal seconded. Carried.

**MINUTES**

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the February meeting as distributed. Zichal seconded. Carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Feb. 14	Beginning balance	41,690.72
	Receipts	
Feb. 14	donation: Betty Johnson memorial	350.00
Feb. 24	donation: Betty Johnson memorial	65.00
Mar. 03	donation: Blackbaud	20.00
	donation: Eric Boehm	250.00
	donations: Betty Johnson, memorials	
	Travis Martin	50.00
	Steve Johnson	190.00
	Corrie Niblett	50.00

Craig Embretson	50.00
J.P. and Cindy Zapf	40.00
Duane Klink	20.00
Total Receipts	1085.00
Expenses	
Mar. 08 Alla. Clayton Electric	44.35
Total Expenses	44.35
Current balance	42,731.37

Zichal moved to approve the treasurer's report. Schoen seconded. Carried.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1 – CENTRAL SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS – Stone and Zichal met with three Central Community High School students about an Earth Day project to help clean at the Mill. The group plans to have about 25 students at the Mill from about 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Monday, April 11. Kenny Slocum, resource manager for the Conservation Board, will supervise some of the students on trail and other work around the Motor Mill site. Foundation volunteers are asked to bring push brooms and other cleaning materials.

2 – BASEMENT POST REPLACEMENT – Nikolai reported no additional progress since Alysworth house movers began work in the basement on February 14.

3 – 2022 INTERN? – Harkrader said the Conservation Board has been unable to hire a seasonal Motor Mill intern. There is some chance a previous intern may be able to help with tours part-time.

4 – 2022 TOUR SCHEDULE – The consensus was to open Saturdays from noon until 5 p.m. from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. After Labor Day, tours will be offered Sept. 17, Oct. 1, and Oct. 8-9, which is Heritage Days weekend.

5 – WOODEN TURBINES IN NEW YORK? – A friend of Nikolai toured several mills in New York, but apparently none had wooden turbines – which makes the Motor turbines seem even more unusual.

6 – COFFEE TALK DISCUSSIONS – About 20 people met at Osborne for two March 3 discussions about developing a master interpretive plan for the Motor Mill Historic Site. Topics included the take-away message for visitors, which might focus on architecture, agricultural history, natural history, Native American history, geology, and geography.

Would a goal be to have full-time staff at the site? Should we eventually try to have working models?

How do we entice more visitors – such as water trail users – to stop at the Mill?

We need to strike a balance between providing interpretation that is accessible all the time without encroaching on the historic and secluded atmosphere.

Northeast Iowa RC&D staff will draft an interpretive plan for further input from the Motor Mill Foundation, The Conservation Board, and the public.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1 – VOLUNTEER PROJECTS FOR 2022 – The board suggested a number of volunteer projects for this season. Examples included: build a “furniture” around one of the millstones; inventory milling equipment that has been donated to the Foundation, and determine which items might be appropriate in put on display in the Mill; provide better access to the basement windows to allow easier removal if flooding is threatened; install lighting in the Stable; arrange for replacement of windows in the Stable; develop hands-on activities for children.

2 – BLUEPRINTS OF MOTOR BUILDINGS – Nikolai brought copies of as-built drawings of the Mill produced by Gardner Architecture in 2006.

Slagel has learned of technology that could produce a 3-D scan that could be used to give a virtual tour of the interior of the building. Zichal moved to authorize Slagel to do more research on 3-D scans and to report to the Foundation. Schoen seconded. Carried.

3 – MERCHANDISE – Morine asked what t-shirts and other clothing we want to have for sale at the Mill and the Iowa Room. After considerable discussion, the group agreed to continue with items that have been most popular in the past: caps, adult t-shirts, and hoodies – all in soft fabric and blue and gray colors.

4 – WATER IN BASEMENT – Nikolai has attempted to reach John P. Moyna to discuss ways to keep water and silt out of the basement

## **REPORTS and UPDATES**

1 - TRRC – Schoen and Slagel attended the Turkey River Recreational Corridor meeting on March 1. Motor Mill will again be included as a stop on the Turkey River Safari.

The Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) will stop for the night in West Union on July 29.

2 – MOTOR MILL FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT – Following the meeting, Nikolai received a statement that we have a balance of \$16,263.07 in the Motor Mill Endowment with the Community Foundation of Great Dubuque.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Zichal moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Morine seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

Motor Mill Foundation