

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

(DRAFT)

April 19, 2022

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Those present included: John Nikolai, Larry Stone, Dan Slagel, Chuck Morine, Ken Zichal, David Beck, Lee Lenth, Jane Metcalf, Mark Yackel-Juleen, and Chris Schoen. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Chairman Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:07 p. m.

AGENDA

Morine asked to add an agenda item to discuss the light switch on the first floor of the Mill. Harkrader said Metcalf would have a marketing proposal. Lenth asked for discussion of signs interpreting the log salvaged from the dam. Stone moved to approve the agenda with those additions. Morine seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Stone moved top approve the minutes of the March 15 meeting as distributed. Zichal seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

March 15	Beginning balance	42,731.37
	Receipts	
Apr. 15	donation: Dan and Karen Slagel	1,300.00
	Total Receipts	1,300.00

Expenses

Feb. 16 – Alpine Communications	16.97
Feb. 23 – ETAB, tax prep	200.00
March 17 – Alpine Communications	16.97
Apr. 8 – Allam Clayton Elec	46.00
Apr. 15 – Alysworth House Movers, basement posts	4,200.00
April 16 – Alpine Communications	16.88
Total Expenses	4,496.82

April 19 Current balance 39,534.55

Yackel-Juleen moved to approve the treasurer's report. Schoen seconded. Carried.

CLAIMS

Morine submitted claims from Slagel for \$53.86 for copying and scanning architecture plans, and from Lenth for \$99.61 for joist hangers for the basement. Morine moved to approve the claims. Zichal seconded. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1 – CENTRAL SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS – Stone reported that about 30 students from Central Middle School worked to help clean the Mill from about 9-11 a.m. on April 18. The students swept, vacuumed, cleaned windows, and moved lumber to the Cooperage. Morine also gave them a Mill tour.

2 - STABLE AND INN UPDATE – Pollock has been in touch with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) about roof repair on the Stable. Schoen reviewed SHPO guidelines, which require repairs to be as historically accurate as possible. The board discussed whether metal sheeting on the lower roof level and Decra simulated shakes or shingles might fit that criteria. The decision may rest with the National Park Service.

Bear Creek Archaeology staff began testing around the Inn on April 18. Schoen said they did not expect to find any prehistoric artifacts, given the periodic floods at the site for many decades. But there may need to be an archaeologist on site during any work at the Inn that involves disturbing the earth.

Martin-Gardner Architecture predicts the Inn restoration still can be completed by Memorial Day of 2023, Pollock said. Although some grant money is still pending, the project so far looks to be OK financially. We have \$125,000 each from Upper Mississippi Gaming and the Rural Heritage grant, along with \$35,000 in private donations. Pollock was optimistic about also receiving a grant from Iowa Great Places.

3 – INTERPRETIVE PLAN – The Interpretive Planning committee met April 14 to review a plan outline from NE Iowa RC&D. The proposed central theme is “Motor Mill stands as a witness to the ever-changing nature of agriculture, ecosystems, and communities in Northeast Iowa.” Several sub-themes and messages about milling and the changes in the site and region reemphasize the theme. A key message is that we need to prepare for changes that will continue.

4 – BASEMENT WALKWAY FOR WINDOW ACCESS – Lenth has been working on the project regularly, with occasional help from other volunteers. It is now about two-thirds complete. The board discussed whether it could sometimes be accessible to the public, but did not reach a conclusion.

5 – TURBINE RESTORATION – Schoen had nothing new to report.

6 – PHOTOS OF HISTORY OF MOTOR MILL RESTORATION – Stone has begun the project, but has made no additional recent progress.

7 – CONSIDER 3-D SCAN OF BUILDINGS – Slagel has been in contact with several companies that produce 3D laser scan videos of buildings. The board discussed whether this might be a good way to document the Motor Mill Historic Site, show before/after status of the Inn restoration, and perhaps post a “teaser” on the website to attract more in-person visitors. General cost estimates ranged from \$1000 to \$8000. Zichal moved to authorize Slagel to research the concept in more detail. Beck seconded. Carried. Pollock agreed to work with Slagel to prepare a request for proposals to give to potential bidders on the project.

8 – VISITS TO OTHER MILLS – Zichal reported that Schech’s Mill, near Caledonia, Minn., does not open until June 10. He will try to arrange a group tour after that. He’s had no response to his queries to Pickwick Mill.

9 – 2022 TOUR GUIDE SCHEDULE – Harkrader distributed a tour guide schedule for Saturday afternoons from May 28 to October 8.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – PRESERVE IOWA SUMMIT – Nikolai, Lenth, and Schoen plan to attend the Preserve Iowa Summit in Mason City June 2-4.

2 – MARKETING – Metcalf has spoken with the owner of Rivals, in Strawberry Point, who is offering to design Motor Mill graphics for t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other items that Rivals would sell on-line. There would be no cost to the Motor Mill Foundation, but we would receive part of the profit. After a long discussion, the board was generally receptive, but had several questions: is there a contract involved; are the images copyrighted; would the images be based on photos?

Metcalf agreed to get more information from Rivals and report at the May meeting.

REPORTS and UPDATES

1 - TRRC – Schoen and Slagel attended the Turkey River Recreational Corridor meeting on April 1. Much of the discussion was about the Register's Annual Great Bike Ride Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) stopping for the night in West Union on July 29.

2 – LIGHT SWITCH IN THE MILL – Morine moved and Lenth seconded to remove the remote switch and just have a hard-wired switch at the electrical panel on the first floor of the Mill. Carried. Stone agreed to contact Alan Wessel to have the work done. (Note: Wessel will be gone until May, but promised to do the work soon after that.)

3 – LOG FROM DAM – Pollock will arrange for staff to make new interpretive signs for the log salvaged from the old dam.

ADJOURNMENT

Zichal moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m. Morine seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

Motor Mill Foundation