

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

(DRAFT)

May 17, 2022

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, May 17, 2022, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Those present included: John Nikolai, Larry Stone, Dan Slagel, Chuck Morine, Ken Zichal, David Beck, Jane Metcalf, Don Venteicher, and Chris Schoen. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Chairman Nikolai called the meeting to order at 7:04 p. m.

AGENDA

Stone asked to add an agenda item to arrange a tour for Boy Scouts who plan to camp at Motor on May 21. Zichal moved to approve the agenda with that addition. Schoen seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the April 19 meeting as distributed. Slagel seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine presented the following treasurer's report:

Apr. 19	Beginning Balance	39,534.55	
	Receipts		
Apr. 21	donation: Blackbaud Giving Fund	80.00	
	Brian Gibbs: photo contest	50.00	
	Total Receipts		130.00

Expenses

Apr. 19	Lee Lenth -	building materials	99.61
	Dan Slagel -	plan copies	53.86
Apr. 21	Esser's Clothing -	merchandise	510.39
	Cash for change		70.00
May 10	Alla. Clayton Electric		57.93
May 14	Alpine Communications		16.88
	Total Expenses		808.67
May 17	Current balance		38,855.88

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

OLD BUSINESS

1 – BASEMENT PROGRESS – Nikolai reported that the basement walkway access to the windows is finished and the excess wood has been removed. The group discussed whether it would be appropriate to put a “window” in the floor to allow visitors to see the turbine shaft that remains. The consensus was not to add a window, but perhaps to have a flashlight available to point out the turbine.

2 – TURBINE RESTORATION – Schoen has received no new report.

3 – ELECTRICAL WORK – Wessel's Electric has replaced the first floor remote switch with a hard-wired switch at the electrical panel on the downstream wall.

4 – VISITS TO OTHER MILLS – Zichal asked board members to email him lists of available weekend days when he should try to arrange visits to Pickwick Mill and Schech's Mill.

5 – JOHN MOYNA ADVICE – Nikolai has asked John Moyna for suggestions on preventing runoff from entering the Mill basement, and on the practicality of annually removing silt, but has had no response.

6 – INN UPDATE – Pollock said Bear Creek Archaeology found no major concerns during their assessment of the proposed Inn restoration project. We are awaiting final approval from the State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service.

Pollock also noted that the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs hopes to produce a promotional video showing the before/after work on the Inn.

7 - STABLE ROOF – The board discussed how to repair the Stable roof to meet guidelines of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). It is uncertain when the original roof was raised to a hip roof during the Klink family's farming operation. Pollock will discuss the issue further with SHPO, and perhaps the National Park Service.

8 – MILL ROOF SHINGLES – Lee Lenth has contacted Amish carpenters about replacing missing shingles on the Mill roof.

9 – MOTOR MILL MERCHANDISE – Metcalf has discussed various proposals by which Rivals in Strawberry Point would market Motor Mill merchandise at no cost to the Motor Mill Foundation, but with MMF receiving a portion of the profits.

Morine pointed out that the board in March approved continuing to buy merchandise from Esser's in Guttenberg. Morine subsequently placed a large order with Esser's. Morine opposed changing the arrangement now.

Pollock said NE Iowa RC&D is designing a new Motor Mill logo as part of the new interpretive plan.

The board took no action, but agreed to consider different marketing ideas in 2023.

NEW BUSINESS

1 - VOLUNTEER PROJECTS – Slagel suggested that volunteers focus their efforts on work that would complement the new interpretive plan. He also posed the idea of a “garage sale” to sell some of the unneeded lumber that's stored in the Mill and the Cooperage. Other projects discussed were removing the old posts and beams from the basement, and repairing loose floorboards on the sixth floor.

2 – SIGNS FOR BEAM FROM DAM – Morine moved to approve the purchase of interpretive signs for the beam salvaged from the old dam, at a cost of \$140 from THINK. Zichal seconded. Carried.

REPORTS and UPDATES

1 - TRRC – Schoen and Slagel attended the Turkey River Recreational Corridor meeting on May 3. TRRC has agreed to apply for an Iowa Great Places grant to help pay for Inn restoration.

Pollock said the Iowa Great Places Director visited Motor Mill on May 6.

2 – COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT – Pollock said the Motor Mill Foundation has received a \$1,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. It will help pay for the new interpretive plan.

3 – INTERPRETIVE PLAN – Pollock said NE Iowa RC&D has proposed a number of elements for the new interpretive plan, including: a new logo; a marketing brochure; a photo library; wayfinding signs; ways to use the Cooperage; limiting access to upper floors of the Mill, except for guided tours; devices to provide audio messages when activated by visitors; a “backpack” of materials to assist tour guides. The draft of the final plan may be presented in June.

ADJOURNMENT

Beck moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Zichal seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

Motor Mill Foundation