

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

(DRAFT)

December 20, 2022

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at the Osborne Conservation Center. Those present included: John Nikolai, Larry Stone, Dan Slagel, Chuck Morine, Ken Zichal, Jane Metcalf, and Chris Schoen. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Vice-chairman Zichal called the meeting to order at 7:08 p. m. Nikolai took over when he arrived a bit later.

AGENDA

Morine asked to add an item about reviewing the Foundation’s liability insurance. Slagel requested to discuss building a furniture for one of the millstones. Stone moved to approve the agenda with those additions. Schoen seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Morine moved to approve the minutes of the November 15 meeting as distributed. Slagel seconded. Carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Morine presented the following treasurer’s report:

Nov. 15	Beginning balance		18,602.88
	Receipts		
Nov. 21	merchandise sales	11/19	94.00
	donations	11/19	119.00
	Vance Knutson		100.00
Nov. 29	donations:	11/25	20.00
	Blackbaud		20.00
	CCCB: Paypal		829.84

Dec. 08	merchandise sales	25.00
	lumber sales	200.00
	donation; Burnell Smith	2,000.00
	return of change	50.00
Dec. 16	donation: Scot & Jane Christiansen	2,500.00

Total Receipts	5,957.84
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Expenses

Nov. 18	Alpine	17.21
Dec. 08	Alla. Clayton Electric	44.82
Dec, 17	Alpine	17.21
	Dyersville Commercial, advertising	99.00
	Chris Schoen; travel reimbursement	575.36
	John Nikolai, travel reimbursement	1,593.35

Total Expense	2,346.95
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Dec. 20	Current balance	22,213.77
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Schoen moved to accept the treasurer's report. Slagel seconded. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1 – TURBINE PRESERVATION – Schoen said we need to monitor the temperature and humidity fluctuations of the wooden turbines that were preserved in Maryland. They also need to be protected from dust and insect pests.

Zichal suggested building a plexiglass display case. The consensus of the board was to keep the turbines in a case on the first floor of the Mill, making sure to have the turbines a foot or more above the floor to avoid another flood of the level of the water in 2008.

The board also discussed ways to reduce the amount of dust entering the Mill. One idea is to cover the arches with tarps hung on the inside of the basement wall. That would reduce the winds blowing through and stirring up dust.

Slagel advocated a way to close off the stairway between the first and second floors when we're not giving tours or needing other access to the upper floors.

Morine moved to authorize Schoen to purchase temperature and humidity monitoring and recording equipment for the turbine display. Zichal seconded. Carried.

2 – INN RESTORATION – Pollock will consult with the State Historic Preservation Office about specifications for the concrete on the first floor, and whether a laminate overlay is required. She also will ask SHPO about preserving a wood wall on the first floor.

The contractor has installed a propane heater to make winter work possible.

3 – WELL – Pollock is still trying to get an answer from the DNR about whether an engineer is needed, and if we can drill under the hill to connect the campground well to the Inn.

4 - INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN – The committee met again on Dec. 15. New brochures are top priority, with one off-site version to help people find Motor, and an on-site guide to orient visitors.

The committee discussed what materials should be included in backpacks or portfolios for tour guides to refer to.

Panels in the first floor of the Inn should interpret the milling period. Other panels on the second floor would focus on the farm era.

The turbine panels will show how the turbines were constructed and operated.

Basement panels will be positioned to allow visitors to look down and see the existing turbine shaft. We may want to add panels to mark the height of different floods. All basement panels must be easy to remove and clean following floods.

The next committee meeting is tentatively planned for Feb. 16.

5 – WIFI AND SECURITY CAMERAS – Fiber-optic internet service has been installed at the Mill and the Inn, but it will not be turned on until May.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – PARTNERSHIP FOR PLAYGROUND GRANT? – Pollock hopes to apply for a grant for a playground at the new Osborne campground, but the applicant must be a 501c3 organization, rather than a government body. The Motor Mill Foundation is one option for a partner – but Pollock will query other groups first.

2 – YEAR-END REPORT – Nikolai intends to prepare a 2022 report based on MMF meeting minutes. Harkrader will assist with statistics on visitors.

3 – 2023 EVENTS – Pollock and Harkrader said several STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) camps for students are planned for Motor. A group also has inquired about holding a “ghost camp.” Pollock and Harkrader also recommended reviving the Motor Mill Art Show.

Tentative tour dates are Saturdays from Memorial Day to Labor Day, with the option of occasional special events.

4 – WORK DAY PROJECTS – Top priority may be moving the restored turbines onto the first floor of the Mill and building protective cases.

The group also discussed ways to close off the arches, and enclosing the stairway between the first and second floors.

Slagel also is continuing to work on a furniture for one set of millstones, and perhaps a model to demonstrate how millstones work.

5 – APPAREL – Since RC& D is designing a new logo for The Motor Mill Historic Site, the board agreed to delay ordering any more shirts or other apparel until that design is available.

6 – INSURANCE – Morine said our liability insurance premium is due in February, but the company has said there will be coverage changes. Pollock said she will try to contact Gifford Insurance, as well as other Clayton County insurance carriers, to arrange a presentation at the January meeting.

REPORTS and UPDATES

1 – 2023 INTERN – Pollock said there has been at least one applicant for the summer intern position at Motor.

2 – LETTER RE TURBINE PROJECT – Schoen shared by email a letter he has drafted to Nichole Doub, Head Conservator at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory thanking them for their conservation work and also to comment on things he found insufficient with regard to their conservation report and packing of Turbine 1. The board praised Schoen for his concern and the content of the letter, and agreed that he should send the letter as a representative of the Foundation.

ADJOURNMENT

Morine moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. Metcalf seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

Motor Mill Foundation