

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

(DRAFT)

May 21, 2024

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at the Osborne Conservation Center. The start time was delayed until 8 p.m. because of storm threats. Those present included: Kenneth Zichal, Chuck Morine, Larry Stone, Chris Schoen, David Beck, Jay Elvers, and Dan Slagel. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock, CCCB naturalist Abbey Harkrader, and Motor Mill coordinator Laura Elsinger also attended. Zichal called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

AGENDA

MINUTES

TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine presented the following treasurer's report:

April 16	Beginning balance	36,100.60
Receipts		
May 7	donation: Blackbaud	30.00
	Total Receipts	20.00
Expenses		
April 16	Alpine Communications	17.46
April 17	Dan Slagel – shop vac	128.40
May 7	Allamakee Clayton Elec.	66.90
May 14	Johnson's Restaurant, meals for Moyna crew	105.00
May 15	Alpine Communications	17.46
May 17	Square Inc.	0.23
	Total Expenses	335.45
April 23	Current balance	35,795.15

Elvers moved to accept the treasurer's report. Schoen seconded. Carried.

CLAIMS

Morine presented claims from THINK for \$1235.98 for the memorial plaque for Jon deNeui, and from Rivals for \$308.16 for mugs and key chains. He moved to approve those payments. Slagel seconded. Carried.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT

Morine told the board that he and his wife, Sydney, will be moving to the Strawberry Point Lutheran Home in a few months, and he submitted his resignation as Foundation treasurer and registered agent for the nonprofit corporation. He moved that Dan Slagel be appointed to serve as interim treasurer and agent. Beck seconded the motion. Carried, with foundation members expressing their heartfelt thanks for Chuck's two decades of service in support of Motor Mill.

OLD BUSINESS

1 – MOVING BOLTERS TO THIRD FLOOR OF MILL – C. J. Moyna and Sons provided a crew of four, along with a scissors lift and a skid loader, to move equipment to the third floor of the Mill on Tuesday, May 14. The transfer went smoothly, and a total of seven pieces of milling equipment, including bolters, flour sifters, and middling purifiers, now are on display at Motor. Appropriate thanks have been sent to John Moyna. A story and photos also have been submitted to the Clayton County Times Register.

2 – UPDATE ON PLAQUE TO HONOR JON DENEUI – Stone said the staff at THINK promises to have the plaque ready in time for the June 15 dedication. The ceremony will follow a memorial service and meal at E-Free Church, which begins at 11 a.m.

The board discussed how and where the plaque will be located. The consensus was for it to be on a post similar to the sign for the bridge construction, with the two posts moved away from the river toward the road. Volunteers will work on the posts before June 15.

3 – BASEMENT ARCH BARRIER GATES – Pollock said our pre-application requesting a grant from Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation was not approved. She is seeking other funding sources. Preliminary costs estimates were no more than \$10,000 per arch.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – MOVING BOLTERS – (See #1 Old Business.)

2 – MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND OPENING – Mill Coordinator Laura Elsinger said that she and co-coordinator Brenda Yearous have been readying the first floor of the Inn for visitors. Pollock asked for discretion to order amenities for the welcome area, such as flowers, gift bags, and surge protectors. She will donate a small refrigerator for use in the gift shop. Slagel moved to approve up to \$500 for such expenses. Beck seconded. Carried.

3 – EARTH DAY STUDENT VOLUNTEERS – About 25 Central School students and 2 teachers helped clean the Mill on May 1. For future such events, the board agreed that we should be more insistent on the use of dust masks and hearing protection. It also would be appropriate to offer snacks or some other token of appreciation.

4 – MILL-INN COMMUNICATION – Elsinger and Schoen have obtained walkie-talkies for workers in the Inn and the Mill to communicate when needed on tour days. The board discussed whether it might be useful to have signs to remind visitors to check the other building if a staff person is temporarily absent.

5 – VISION SUBCOMMITTEE – Slagel suggested that the Foundation should revisit our past visions and strategic planning, with the aim of keeping the Motor Mill Historic Site sustainable into the future. Schoen noted that the discussions could list our past accomplishments, and offer ideas of how to involve more volunteers.

Slagel said Mallory Hanson, with Northeast Iowa RC&D, had offered to coordinate such a discussion in July. Zichal invited the board to his home for the July 16 meeting.

6 – MERCHANDISE – Morine asked whether the Board would like to continue selling the small wooden Mill cut-outs originally designed by Ed Olson. Harkrader said she will find the template that can be glued to the blocks if volunteers can cut them out.

NOTES

Elsinger said some furnishings – such as a bookcase, tables, and chairs - are still needed for the welcome center at the Inn. More antiques also could be displayed in the Inn. The board also discussed whether some antique items could be put in the single display case now left in the Mill.

Pollock reported that work on the Stable roof has been delayed because the crew is dealing with storm-related emergencies.

ADJOURNMENT

Schoen moved to adjourn at 9:43 p.m. Elvers seconded. Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary, Motor Mill Foundation