

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

(DRAFT)

October 17, 2023

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at the home of Ken and Fran Zichal, following a pizza dinner. Those present included: Ken Zichal, Don Venteicher, Dan Slagel, Chuck Morine, Larry Stone, Chris Schoen, Mark Yackel-Juleen, and David Beck. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and CCCB naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Zichal called the meeting to order at 7:22 p. m.

AGENDA

Morine asked to add an item to discuss plans for the Silos and Smokestacks meeting on November 9. Stone moved to approve the agenda with that addition. Yackel-Juleen seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Morine presented the following treasurer's report:

Sept. 18	Beginning balance	33,025.73
Receipts		
Sept. 30	Sept, credit card sales	
	donations	14.50
	merchandise sales	30.00
Oct. 02	donations	174.00
Oct. 16	Heritage Days	
	merchandise sales at MM	95.00
	donations at MM	109.00
	merchandise sales at Osborne	353.00
	donations at Osborne	54.00
	return of change	60.00
	Total	
	Receipts	889.50

Expenses

Oct. 6	Esser's; merchandise	272.85
Oct. 16	cash for Heritage Days change	60.00
	Alpine Communications	17.57

Total Expenses **350.42**

Oct. 17 Current balance **33,564.81**

Beck moved to accept the treasurer's report. Yackel-Juleen seconded. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1 – INN RESTORATION UPDATE – Pollock said the work is mostly complete, except for a few minor issues such as replacing a second floor thermostat and treating some mold on a first floor wall.

The board discussed the need for repairs and a leaf guard on the rain gutters, redirecting downspouts away from the building, and trimming tree branches that hang over the roof. It was agreed that there should be a handrail along the ramp up to the second floor.

2 – TURBINE DISPLAY – Slagel said THINK of Elkader is waiting for the acrylic with which to build the display case. They hope to start this month.

3 – INN FURNISHINGS – Pollock said the committee has obtained the furniture they need for the time being.

Pollock said there have been a couple of reservations to rent the facility.

The board discussed whether to give tours to prospective renters. Pollock suggested we should have volunteers at the Inn for the November 18 bridge lighting.

4 – INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN UPDATE – Pollock said the turbine panels are nearing completion. It's possible they could be in place for the bridge lighting.

5 – STABLE ROOF – Pollock said she is waiting to close the books on the Inn financing before moving ahead with the stable project. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has given the OK to use standing seam metal roofing for the entire roof.

Repairing and closing in the gables will be a separate project.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS – Morine moved and Schoen seconded that Slagel be reappointed to the board for a three-year term. Carried unanimously.

Slagel moved and Yackel-Juleen seconded that Zichal be elected chair. Carried unanimously.

Slagel moved and Stone seconded that Schoen be elected vice-chair. Carried unanimously.

Yackel-Juleen moved and Morine seconded that Stone continue as secretary and Morine continue as treasurer. Carried unanimously.

2 – BOLTERS FROM PICKWICK MILL – Zichal and Morine traveled to Winona, Minnesota, to see two bolters and two middlings purifiers that had been donated to Pickwick Mill. They reported that all the machines appeared to be in good condition. Pickwick has offered to donate them to us. The George Meier Museum also has expressed some interest.

The board agreed that we should accept at least one bolter. There is some question whether middlings purifiers were in use when Motor was operating. Yackel-Juleen moved that we accept one of each machine. Morine seconded. Carried.

Addition: Dan Slagel offered to draw up a diagram for a 2 bolter/ 2 purifier display on the 3rd floor. After the meeting, a decision was made to keep/retain all available machines.

(Stone subsequently talked with Dave Metz, who was instrumental in restoring the Pine Creek Mill at Wildcat Den State Park near Muscatine. Metz was adamant that Motor should not pass up the opportunity to obtain all 4 machines, either for display for to save them from being destroyed. When Stone shared this information with the board on October 18, several board members agreed that it would be best to get all the machines. Zichal said he will be in touch with Pickwick to make those arrangements.)

3 – HERITAGE DAYS – The board and Conservation Board staff agreed that Heritage Days, October 14-15, were quite successful – despite cool, windy weather. More than 40 people visited Motor on Saturday, and more than 90 went there Sunday.

4 - PLANS FOR INN MAIN FLOOR -The board briefly discussed how we will staff both the Inn and the Mill next season when tours resume. Zichal suggested appointing a committee in January to consider those plans.

Pollock said the Conservation Board will prepare a job description for a possible intern.

5 – BRIDGE LIGHTING – All board members should plan to help at the bridge lighting at dusk on Saturday, November 18. The first floor of the Inn will be open for people to gather in a warm place beforehand. The Littleport Fire Department is planning their annual soup supper for the same evening.

6 – FEEDBACK – The board discussed ways to get feedback from the public about Motor Mill Historic Site tours and facilities. Options could be posting a QR code, sending out a Google survey, or asking for emails. No decision was made.

7 – SILOS AND SMOKESTACKS – Pollock asked people to let her know before November 1 if they plan to attend the Silos and Smokestack training and/or awards ceremony in Waterloo on November 9. The program is from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with the awards luncheon from 11:30 until 1:30.

REPORT

TRRC - Slagel sent members an electronic copy of the minutes of the October 3 TRRC meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary

Motor Mill Foundation