

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

(DRAFT)

January 16, 2024

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, January 16, 2024, via a Zoom connection, due to inclement weather. Those present included: Kenneth Zichal, Chuck Morine, Larry Stone, Chris Schoen, Dan Slagel, and Don Venteicher. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock and CCCB naturalist Abbey Harkrader also attended. Zichal called the meeting to order at 7:05 p. m.

AGENDA

Slagel moved to approve the agenda as distributed. Schoen seconded. Carried.

MINUTES

Schoen moved to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2023, meeting as distributed in December and clarified on Jan. 16. Slagel seconded. Carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Morine presented the following treasurer’s reports:

Dec. 19 Beginning Balance		35,186.06
Receipts		
Dec. 21 Lee Lenth memorial donations	1,100.00	
Total Receipts	1,100.00	
Expenses		
Dec. 19 Dan Slagel, materials	197.86	
Total Expenses	197.86	
Dec. 31 Current Balance		36,088.20

Jan. 01 Beginning Balance **36,088.20**

Receipts

Jan. 04	Jon deNeui memorial donations	250.00
Jan. 05	donations; Schoen/Elsinger	200.00
	Voss	100.00
	Lee Lenth memorial donations	40.00
	Rita Hill [Fidelity Invest]	1,000.00
	Black Baud	20.00

Total Receipts **1,610.00**

Expenses

Jan. 08	Jansen Products, web hosting	264.00
Jan. 12	Allamakee Clayton Electric	70.32

Total Expenses **334.32**

Jan. 15 Current Balance **37,363.88**

(Does anyone recall who made the motion and who seconded to approve the treasurer's report?

Sorry I missed that.)

Morine also presented the following income/expense summary for 2023 tax preparation:

BEGINNING BALANCE **23,109.77**

RECEIPTS

Donations	18,229.85
Merchandise sales	2,902.98
Used lumber sales	60.00
Grants	
Black Hills Energy (pass through to CCCB for Pony Hollow Trail)	3,000.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS **24,192.83**

EXPENSES

#7b cost of goods	816.44
#13 professional fees	
Etab [tax prep.	215.00
web hosting	0.00
sub total	215.00
#14 occupancy	
bldg. materials	4,601.46
trails (to CCCB)	3,000.00
insurance	400.00
utilities	888.50
sub total	8,889.96
#16 other expenses	
advertising	
memberships	50.00
signs	993.00
donations	250.00
misc.	00.00
sub total	1,293.00

TOTAL EXPENSES **11,214.40**

ENDING BALANCE **36,088.20**

TRRC REPORT by Mallory Hanson

Mallory Hanson, director of the Turkey River Recreational Corridor, discussed the TRRC annual report for 2023. Some activities included: grant writing for member entities, including a successful \$328,000 Iowa Great Places grant for the Motor Inn; promotions such as water trail and trout fishing guides; travel to tourism conferences; organize the Turkey River Safari; prepare social media; do trail user counts.

Hanson said the TRRC has leveraged more than \$8.7 million in funds from grants and donations in its 13-year history.

OLD BUSINESS

1 – ROAD DUST MITIGATION – Pollock will confer with Clayton County Secondary Roads. She said the County has not been billed for the 2023 dust control.

Zichal asked about the cost of seal-coating from Communia to Motor, and wondered whether the county could get a grant to pay for it. Pollock questioned whether seal-coat (or asphalt?) would be aesthetically inappropriate. Schoen noted that national parks and historic sites typically have paved or seal-coated roads, which usually is not a concern.

2 – BOLTERS – Zichal has not received a response from Moyna's about how and when to move the Pickwick bolters from the Stable to the Mill.

NEW BUSINESS

1 – BRIDGE LIGHTING – Pollock said two businesses have offered to help put more holiday lights on the Motor Mill bridge, and to pay for electrical costs. Board members were receptive to the idea, but cautioned that light displays should be kept low-key and in keeping with the historical elements of the site. Also, the county engineer should be consulted.

Stone moved to authorize Pollock to follow up and learn more. Schoen seconded. Carried.

2 – UMGC GRANT APPLICATION – Pollock said a pre-application for Upper Mississippi River Gaming grants is due April 19. Successful applicants would receive money in October.

The board discussed a number of potential grant projects, including: metal gates for the arches in the Mill basement; railing for ramp to second floor of Inn; leaf guards for Inn gutters; updating the Stories in Stone video. Pollock said UMGC in the past has not approved grants for events (such as an art show) or road work (such as seal coating.)

The board also discussed work on the Cooperage, such as renovating windows and floors and providing access to the second floor. Slagel suggested that we should have a Cooperage master plan before doing more work there.

Pollock asked the board to continue the dialogue at the next meeting.

3 – MEMORIALS AND RECOGNITION FOR VOLUNTEERS – Morine urged the board to find ways to best honor the work of former and present board members. He offered to serve on a committee to make recommendations. One idea might be a “hall of fame,” without specific criteria but a general consensus that an individual should be honored for their work.

Schoen moved to establish a volunteer recognition committee. Morine seconded. Carried. Morine, Schoen, and Zichal agreed to serve on the committee.

4 – TRRC SPONSORSHIP – The Turkey River Recreational Corridor gets its funding from local communities and counties, along with donations from other groups and individuals. Slagel moved that the Foundation contribute \$500 to TRRC. Stone seconded. Carried.

5 – YEAR-END REVIEW OF PROJECTS – Slagel compiled the following list of MMF work in 2023:

Some Highlights:

1. Filled large (8'x8') floor gaps on 3rd and 4th floor
 2. Removed old lumber, tarps, etc. from 2nd-5th floors. Organized tools and hardware on 2nd floor.
 3. 6th floor stairwell rail installed.
 4. Turbine display created. Plexiglass case (thINK) completed.
 5. Millstone furniture/ faux running stone display.
 6. Ramps installed in doorways
 7. Cleaning days (5/20 and 7/11). Downstream and upstream vegetation removal. Bat guano removal.
 8. Prep for VIP tours/Inn opening/John Nikolai Memorial
 9. Roof repair (7/25 with Amish help).
 10. New Bolter/middling's purifier obtained from Pickwick.
 11. Bridge and Inn holiday lighting
- Details about the renovation of the Inn, by far the biggest funded project of 2023, are not covered in this list. Other items like installation of MM site Wifi, point of sale system, security cameras covered by Clayton County Conservation were also completed this year.

6 – INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN – Pollock said the IMP committee agreed that top priority should be preparing a booklet that could be used to orient new tour guides, as well as a self-guiding tour reference for visitors. The committee also discussed a 3-D model of the Motor Mill Historic Site to be placed on the second floor of the Mill.

The Conservation Board staff are making routed signs for the Motor Mill buildings and trails. Another sign option might be signs attached to or etched in limestone slabs.

REPORT

TRRC – Schoen has emailed minutes of the January TRRC meeting to MMF board members.

ADJOURNMENT

Stone moved to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. Schoen seconded. Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary, Motor Mill Foundation