

Motor Mill Foundation

Minutes

(DRAFT)

August 20, 2024

The regular meeting of the Motor Mill Foundation of Clayton County was held Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at the Motor Mill Inn. Those present included: Ken Zichal, Chuck Morine, Larry Stone, Chris Schoen, Jay Elvers, Jane Metcalf, Dan Slagel, and Don Venteicher. Clayton County Conservation Board director Jenna Pollock, naturalist Abbey Harkrader, and Motor Mill co-coordinator Laura Elsinger also attended. Brian Balster was a guest.

**AGENDA**

Slagel moved to approve the agenda, with the addition of an item about a Silos and Smokestacks grant application. Stone seconded. Carried.

**MINUTES**

Morine moved to approve the July 16 minutes as distributed. Stone seconded. Carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Aug 20, 2024

Date	Item	Debit	Credit	Balance
July 19	<b>Beginning Balance</b>			<b>15,929. 05</b>

Receipts

Jul 15-Aug 19	Square Credit Merch/Donation.		112.93	
July 15	Donation Check (Boehm)		100.00	
July 22	Donation		127.00	
	Merchandise		81.00	
July 30	Donation		115.00	
	Merchandise		69.00	
Aug 8	Donation		73.00	
	Merchandise		23.00	
	Donation for Windows (Haindfield)		50.00	
Aug 13	Donation		262.00	
	Merchandise		48.00	
	BlackBaud		20.00	

Aug 19 Donation	125.00
<u>Merchandise</u>	<u>87.00</u>

Total Receipts 1292.93

	<u>Expenses</u>	
July 15	ACRC (Electric)	74.41
July 15	Brenda Yearous (Materials)	15.10
July 16	Alpine	17.57
July 31	Heritage Printing	133.44
Aug 07	Esser's Apparel	82.00
Aug 09	ACRC (electric)	77.08
Aug 08	Wilkes (snacks)	35.42
Aug 10	<u>Dan Kase (music)</u>	<u>150.00</u>

Total Expenses 585.02

**Aug 19 Ending Balance**

**16,636.96**

## **VISIONING SESSION**

Mallory Hansen with NE Iowa RC&D conducted a visioning session, building on the session she led on July 16. Her research discovered an earlier vision statement describing plans for Motor as a “working museum.” She agreed to draft an updated statement for the board’s consideration.

Board members were asked to select among a number of options for priorities to focus on. Stabilizing the Mill and restoring the Cooperage seemed highest on the list.

To better market the Motor Mill Historic Site, board members cited the need for recording more oral histories, updating the video, and promoting more events – with the caveat to avoid placing too much emphasis on inappropriate tourism.

Organizational needs for the Motor Mill Foundation included fund raising, volunteer recruitment, and having paid staff at the Motor Mill Historic Site. There also needs to be a publication outlining the responsibilities for new board members and volunteers.

Hanson will prepare a final report and recommendations for the board.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1 – UPDATE ON NIGHT AT THE INN – The August 10 “Night at the Inn” event was quite successful, most board members agreed. Harkrader estimated attendance at about

130. A large group using the Inn added to the crowd. The musicians and audience seemed pleased with the Stable as a venue. The craft tables for kids were very busy. Food and wine vendors had good sales. Metcalf observed that the “Night at the Inn” theme was a good fit for the location and the community

2 – DISCUSSION OF INN RECEPTION AREA – Elsinger said visitors don’t necessarily go the Inn first for orientation, as we had intended. Board members were uncertain whether that is a problem or concern, and whether erecting more directional signs would detract from the site. Zichal suggested that a golf cart may be needed to transport visitors who have mobility problems.

3 – UPDATE ON LENTH PLAQUE – Schoen is still working on a plaque to honor the late Lee Lenth.

4 – UPDATE ON BASEMENT PILLARS – Engineer Steven Brase sent a report based on his August 5 inspection of the Mill basement pillars. He said the two pillars where the limestone bedrock is deteriorating should be stabilized as soon as possible. This could involve temporarily shoring up the beams until the weathered bedrock can be removed and replaced with new concrete piers. The work will need to be approved by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Pollock has reached out to the contractors who worked on Elkader’s Keystone Arch Bridge to learn if they could do the work and what the estimated costs would be. She also is applying for a state emergency Historic Resource Development Program (HRDP) grant. But she predicted that fund raising will be needed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1 – PICKWICK MILL MEETING – Zichal has been in touch with the people at Minnesota’s Pickwick Mill to arrange for them to visit Motor. The board discussed several possible dates but will await word from Pickwick.

2 – EQUIPMENT DONATIONS TO PLAGMAN BARN – Representatives of the Northeast Iowa Antique Association accepted our donation of several pieces of equipment that are not connected with Motor Mill or that are more modern than the time period Motor operated. The items included: an extra sifter, two grinding mills, bucket elevators. They were not interested in the Bar-Nun Sifter, the Gedge-Gray sifting and mixing machine, or another bolter.

3 – MAP BASE IDEAS – The board discussed ways to build a base for the topographic relief map on display in the Inn. Slagel said the shipping box for the map could be adapted by adding sturdy legs. He will work on that after using the box to transport the plexiglass cover that’s been ordered.

4 – LABOR DAY TOURS – Zichal offered to be a tour guide at Motor on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2.

5 – SILOS AND SMOKESTACKS GRANT – Slagel moved to authorize Pollock to apply for a Silos and Smokestacks small grant to be used for videography. Metcalf seconded. Carried. If we receive the grant, the money could be used to update the Stories in Stone video, or for animating some of the new interpretive panels.

## **NOTES**

Iowa PBS crews came to Clayton County and photographed at Motor for a program planned for 2025.

Stone reported that his photo of the Mill with a kayaker in the foreground will appear on the cover of the new Rivers and Bluffs telephone directory.

There are many old color photo postcards of Motor Mill at the Inn. They were donated by Bob Griffiths. Although some have an incorrect date for the Mill's construction, and the colors may not be true, the consensus of the board was to continue to have the cards available for sale or to give away.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Elvers moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Slagel seconded. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Stone, secretary