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August 1995

Tractor Test Museum Committee Minutes August 11, 1995

Tractor Museum

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Tractor Test Museum Committee Minutes 8/11/95

Present: Fred Chase, Debra Chase, Lawrence Hermann, Glenn Hoffman, Bob Kleis, Howard Lamb, Les Larsen, Steve Melvin, Bill Splinter, Norm Tooker, Shirley Trauger

Meeting called to order by Chair Splinter at 10:10 a.m. in 225 Chase Hall.

Minutes of June 15 were approved as mailed to members.

Renovation of Building

Bill distributed a bid for \$21,000 to replace east portion of roof. Fire marshall, Steven Schneider, sent letter on April 24 recommending closing tractor test building. Omtvedt sent letter on July 17 stating that no money be spent for renovation until funds for complete renovation are deposited in Foundation. Facilities Management estimate of the cost of renovation for building is about half a million. Cost to repair the west half of the roof will be more than \$21,000 perhaps \$25 to \$30,000. Total roof repair would probably be less than \$50,000 in total. Nebraska State Historical Society (NESHS) is supportive of renovation and listing it as a historic structure. They think it should be restored to c.1920 not 1995 standards. The committee is trying to get \$1/year lease from UNL for the tractor test building.

Hoffman suggested that we need to reach agreement on what is "acceptable standards of museum level quality" mentioned in Omtvedt's letter.

Another area of concern is a second exit door. Need to consider putting pedestrian door in one of the large doors on the east side or adding a new pedestrian door on the east side of building.

Splinter will check on improving landscaping around building and removing overgrown trees.

National Historic Site

Bill has filled out forms for naming the original tractor test building as a National Historic Site through NESHS. The Board of Nebraska State Historical Society will meet in January, 1996. Approval of this site will be discussed then. Mr. Chase asked if NESHS will support this action. Splinter referred to their letter stating support.

The Historical Society recommends leaving facility in 1920 condition. May need to repair electrical service and we must do roof repairs.

Bill will also ask ASAE for a letter of support. Bill asked Hermann, representing the Camp Creek Threshers, for a letter of support and show no conflict of interest.

Additional Support

Bill thinks we can get Foundation account above \$50,000 in the near future.

Tooker said Love Library has a file of various Foundations that give to museums. List has about 45 names.

Chase and Splinter will work with Walters on contacting Deere and Company. We need to contact Caterpillar, Case IH, and AgCo.

We need publicity to raise funds through trade magazines, alumni newsletters, etc. Kleis suggested Nebraska Manufacturers for support. Also may get support from Successful Farming and Farm Journal and other farm implement magazines and antique tractor magazines.

Chase stated we need a national fund raising campaign.

The committee collected \$180 in dues for the first year. Treasurer now collecting dues for 1995-96.

State Fair

Splinter met with John Skold, manager of the State Fair. The plans at the State Fair are for an antique farm and this does not include tractor testing. State Fair display would probably have only three tractors, a wind mill, a thresher, and some other antique machinery. Skold did not see combining tractor test with the state fair exhibit. Splinter will ask for a letter from Skold to support a tractor test museum at UNL. Hoffman suggested a letter from Governor's Antique Machinery Commission in addition to a letter from Skold representing the State Fair.

Some of the items currently in the tractor test building might be donated to the State Fair exhibits because they are not related to tractor test.

Next meeting: Friday, October 6, 10:00 a.m., room 225 L.W. Chase Hall Vice Chancellor Omtvedt has been invited to this meeting.