

## Friends of Mechanics Hall

### Meeting Minutes

May 9, 2013, 7:00 pm  
Town Hall Annex

#### **In Attendance:**

Herb Bingham, Larry Deblois, Sheila Dubman, Alex Fiandaca, Mark Fiandaca, Phil Mighdoll, Faith Pistrang, Larry Pistrang, Ken Seims, Geoff Yaglou

The meeting began shortly after 7 pm. An agenda was distributed along with a handout:

*Making History Sing* – an article about Gloria Estefan from the Spring 2013 edition of Preservation Magazine re: her dedication to historic preservation.

For a copy, please contact Alex.

#### **New Business:**

1. Treasurer update (Alex): She informed the group that Phil has resigned as Treasurer but will assist with finances and manage the website.
2. Goat Ridge Farm: (Alex): She explained that Goat Ridge Farm has asked to put a Christmas tree stand in front of MH again this year and asked the group for their feedback. Comments were positive and in support of the activity that the stand will bring to MH. A Farm Stand this summer is still in question. The final decision on both rests with John Lebeaux.
3. Future Use Outreach (Larry P.): He explained that he and Annmarie have reached out to a variety of Town groups (i.e. Parks and rec, Boy Scouts) to arrange to attend one of their regular meetings to raise awareness of the Friends' efforts and solicit ideas about future uses they may foresee for MH.

#### **Updates:**

1. WPI Engineering Study (Ken): He informed the group that he will act as Project Manager for the WPI Engineering Study. He met with Prof. Albano in his office at WPI and delivered a package that included background information about MH for the study, a plot plan of the MH property and schematic drawings (thanks to Phil and Sheila) of the first floor, second floor and the back room below the kitchen (a copy of these documents was circulated during the meeting). Prof. Albano is confident that he will have a group of students interested in this project. Ken will touch base with him at the end of August when the fall term begins.

2. Building and Grounds (Mark): He informed the group that the gutters have been removed by PMLD and that Geoff and Tom did some work on some trees. There was discussion about shrub removal. Mickey informed Mark that Glenn Lyons and the Highway department may be willing to help tidy up the driveway in front of MH and may also straighten up the cement bollards. Al Lindsey has evaluated the electrical needs (new panel, breakers, etc.). The question remains as to where the new service should be placed – perhaps a false wall to mount it on. We need to describe the plan to John Lebeaux and then seek an electrical permit from John Wilson.
3. Business Outreach (Larry D.): He met with Anne Littlefield and plans to form a small group to approach businesses and individuals. The group will meet next Wed. (5/15). Ann will help but will not do any actual soliciting.
4. Recent Tour of E. Princeton Village (Alex and Mark): About 30 people attended the tour on 5/4 and many stayed around to ask questions about MH.
5. Herb Bingham brought some treasures that he found at home including a newspaper clipping of his father and mother being installed as Legion Commander and President of the Auxiliary at Mechanics Hall in 1960. Herb will be donating a Temple-Stuart catalog dated 1910 (the year the factory burned) to the Historical Society. A copy of a page of the catalog was circulated, showing benches very similar to the benches in both the Annex and Mechanics Hall.

### **Upcoming Events:**

1. June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>: The FOMH will participate with the Friends of the Library during their book sale. We plan to have a bake sale out front and will distribute pamphlets. Friends who are available to bake or work the table are asked to contact Faith.
2. Tour of Sterling Old Town Hall and Sterling Grange on Tues., May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Town Hall Annex.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Seims  
Secretary