

Friends of Mechanics Hall

Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2012, 7:00 PM. Meeting held at Princeton Town Hall Annex.

In attendance:

Alexandra Fiandaca; Mark Fiandaca; Sheila Dubman; Phillip Mighdoll; Mickey Splaine; Ken Seims; Judy Tyler; Tom Lynch; Rex and Janeen Baker; Faith Pistrang; Larry Pistrang; Matt Lindberg; Teddy Lindberg

- Phil offered a nominee for chairperson, Alexandra Fiandaca. The vote was seconded and accepted by the group by voice vote.
- Ken offered himself as a candidate for Treasurer and Phil as Secretary, both of which were seconded and accepted by the group by a voice vote.
- Alex gave an administrative update including:
 - Information about our website
 - Mailing address (104 Main St.)
 - Acquisition of a federal EIN number
 - Opening a checking account (at Barre Savings Bank). Alex will contact Barre Savings re: Phil's and Ken's officer/signatory status.
 - Our first cash donation has been received!
 - Also mentioned a potential "field trip" to New Salem, MA "Old Academy Building", proposed for a Thursday evening sometime soon.
- A draft membership form was circulated and discussion was held. Updated version will be circulated by email and posted on the website.
- A consensus opinion was reached that we should allow all interested parties to participate as "Friend/Member" at no cost. People will be encouraged to donate but we will not require membership dues (*donors are members but not all members are donors*). We agreed we are interested in accumulating as many Friends as we can. A suggestion was made that we should try to identify each Friend's talents and interests as they sign up, so we can best exploit them in the future.
- A comment was offered to create a board of directors and/or a steering committee. The motion was seconded, and although not voted on, the comment seemed to garner implicit approval and was tabled for a later date.
- The Chair proposed that we would get down to business at the next meeting to define and populate subcommittees. In the interim, draft proposals will circulate by email. Faith and Ken both volunteered to be part of the future fundraising committee.

Clean-up day

- Our Clean-up day goals are twofold.
 - Tidy the Mechanics Hall grounds
 - Spread the word of the Friends' mission(outreach)
- Membership drive will be ongoing, and a donation bowl will be available. An effort will be made to collect names and vital info for all attendees (future Friends).

- Bring your camera, photography will be encouraged. Phyllis Booth of the Landmark has been invited. , but we have not had confirmation.
- Limited electric power will be available
- Abutters Dick Stewart and Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard have been notified and are in support of the Friends' efforts.
- Friends of Princeton Library have given permission for use of tables from within the building for food, etc.
- To-Dos/Assignment
 - “hello my name is” name tags/Karen
 - Music/Ken
 - Tablecloths/Faith
 - Worker Organization/Mickey and Mark
 - Alerting Princeton Police/Alex
 - Water and lemonade/Karen
 - Pizza/Larry
 - Dessert/Alex
 - Bug Spray/Alex
 - First Aid Kit/Sheila
 - Trash bags and recycling bins/Mickey/Alex
- We will need to establish some rules regarding parking.
- Mickey and Mark described the scope of work we intend to perform on Saturday.
 - Raking leaves
 - Collecting rubbish
 - Removal of saplings
 - Trimming of bushes
 - Collection of asphalt
 - Piles will removed by Princeton Highway Department.
- An offer was made by a representative of the Boy Scouts (Teddy) to help perform maintenance work -- perhaps semiannually.
- A discussion developed regarding how we will demark the property lines on clean-up day and going forward. There seemed to be a high level of confidence that the boundaries are clearly articulated (at least clearly enough for a clean-up). This topic will be taken up again in the future. Phil will bring copies of the plot plan so we can put down temporary markers.
- The weather on Saturday is somewhat in question. The plan at the moment is to soldier on unless confronted with the threat of heavy rain. Alex will make the call on Friday night and if a rain date is needed she will inform the webmaster to send a memo.
- Friends plan to arrive on site at ~ 9:30 on Saturday. The clean-up is scheduled for 10-1:00pm.
- All were reminded to label their tools, etc.

Next meeting: May 17th