

## **Friends of Mechanics Hall**

### **Meeting Minutes**

March 14, 2013; 7:00 pm. Meeting held at the Town Hall Annex

In attendance:

Larry Deblois, Sheila Dubman, Alex Fiandaca, Mark Fiandaca, Elizabeth Hammond, Phil Mighdoll, Faith Pistrang, Larry Pistrang, Ken Seims, Mickey Splaine, Geoff Yaglou

The meeting began shortly after 7 pm. An agenda was distributed along with 3 handouts:

- How to use our Email Distribution Lists
- Barre Schoolhouse Article
- The Barre Coach Article

For copies of these, please contact Alex.

Discussion:

1. Visit to Shirley, March 3rd – There was discussion re: the visit to Shirley and the two buildings – Center Town Hall and the Meetinghouse. Alex's notes on these buildings and the conversation with Robert Adam are available. Please contact her if you are interested.
2. Shirley Visit Slide Show: Mark presented a slide show about the renovations of the Shirley Center Town Hall and the Meetinghouse. This slide show will be available for viewing on the website. The question was raised if we should hire Robert Adam at \$100/hour with a minimum of 2 hours to assess the condition of MH. Geoff recommended that we open some things up to better see what our problems are and get our own assessment of what's wrong before we bring Robert in.
3. Emergency Grant Application – Our plan to apply for an Emergency Grant through Galvin's office was discussed. Phil had a discussion with Arlene Betteridge in Barre about their approach to an emergency grant and some guidance as to how much we should request. Phil learned that it was Sen. Brewer who contacted Galvin's office and requested the money. Phil has contacted Phil Grzyb about assessing the rotting corner beam and is awaiting his reply.
4. Preservation Restriction (PR) Update – The Officers have been working on a draft of a Letter of Intent to be signed by the BOS which must accompany the Emergency Grant application. A PR must be established in order for funds to be awarded from the Mass Preservation Projects Fund.
5. Gutters – The removal of the gutters is still a priority to prevent any further damage to the building's foundation. It was again suggested that we ask PMLD to assist with this effort under our supervision. Further discussion ensued about the need for a set of blueprints for the building. It was suggested that Bay Path might be able to assist us with this.

6. Business Outreach – It was agreed that we need to finalize a donation acknowledgment program (i.e. “Pillars of Support”) before we solicit any donations from the business community in Town. It was suggested that Larry Deblois reach out to Ann Littlefield who had offered her assistance. Larry will follow up with Ann.
7. The NON Issue - On April 11th, The Landmark will publish their “NON ISSUE”, extending an opportunity to every subscriber to do something very special. Every subscriber can designate one of many different non-profit organizations to receive a Landmark advertising voucher for \$20 to enable the organizations to promote their cause, raise awareness, showcase their volunteers or advertise important fund raising events, etc. The non-profit organizations will receive the amount designated to them by their subscribers, collectively, and will not be required to spend any money beyond the value of their vouchers. If subscribers take this opportunity to pay \$40 to extend their subscription for one year and push out the renewal of their current subscription for one year at today’s price, they will award the non-profit of choice \$40, or double the promotional credit.

The current list of area non-profits did not include FOMH. However, Alex, Faith and Ken contacted them to make them aware of our existence. We will need to reach out to all the Friends on our list to encourage those who are Landmark subscribers to designate FOMH. Unfortunately, we will be competing with over a half dozen other non-profits in Princeton.

8. East Princeton Village Tour on Saturday, May 4th – The Princeton Historical Society will be sponsoring a tour of the East Princeton Village on May 4th and has asked Alex to lead the tour, which will include MH.

The last 3 items on the agenda were hastily discussed:

9. Further ideas for Book Sale on June 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup>
10. Request from Jim Camp regarding farm stand this year
11. Clarification of Friends email distribution lists

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11th at 7 pm in the Town Hall Annex.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Seims

Secretary