

Friends of Mechanics Hall

Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2014; 7:00 pm. Meeting held at the Town Hall Annex

In attendance:

Tom Daly, Alex Fiandaca, Mark Fiandaca, Elizabeth Hammond, Annmarie Hurley, Ken Seims and Mickey Splaine

The meeting began shortly after 7 PM. An agenda was distributed.

Item #1 – Cong. Church Craft Fair on December 9th – Alex thanked Mickey for his efforts during the Craft Fair. Turnout was unusually low at the Fair this year and though bird houses were available for sale at \$40 each, none were sold. \$28 was raised from the sale of note cards. There was interest in Mechanics Hall itself and many people asked to take brochures.

Item #2 – Janet Sandstrom of The Wooly Fox shop (263 Worcester Road) – Janet has agreed to take four bird houses on consignment and will offer them for sale at her shop for \$35 each. She will not take a cut and will also offer some note cards for sale.

Item #3 – Building and Grounds Update – Mark informed us that he and Mickey have removed nearly all the duct work from the basement, Mark suggested that we consider installing a flagpole to the front of MH, since there was one there in the past. The idea was received favorably and will require some further investigation.

Item #4 – American Legion cabinet – Alex thanked Karen for her efforts in contacting Babette Gehrich of the American Antiquarian Society who has agreed to look over the materials in the closet and advise us on how to deal with the mold.

Item #5 – Timber identification for WPI study – The students had asked for our help in identifying what type of wood was used for the timbers. Alex expressed thanks to Elizabeth and Joe Lee for their help in determining that it is likely to be chestnut. The students have been notified.

Item #6 – Building evaluation by Justin McCarthy of Old Colony Housewrights - .Alex circulated a copy of Justin's report. We are all pleased to read that the overall the building is in better shape than we thought but with much work to be done. The report has detailed evaluations of the basement, first and second floors as well as the exterior and the roof.

The report includes some cost estimates and outlines stabilization work as follows:

- Foundation repairs and addition
- Structural repairs to framing

- Rebuild of basement stairs
- Exterior paint

The report advises that the cost of subsequent work (below) should be determined once a building usage plan has been established:

- Insulation
- Heating system
- Septic system
- Electrical upgrade
- Roof replacement
- Lead paint analysis
- Assessment by structural engineer
- Design/Use plan (typically 8 – 15% of construction costs)

The officers will meet in February to prepare a presentation for John Lebeaux and the BOS to include details of the WPI study that is underway, a summary of Justin's report and permission to move forward on our stabilization plans and the requisite fund raising.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 13th at 7 PM in the Town Hall Annex.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Seims
Secretary, FOMH