

Friends of Mechanics Hall

Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2013; 7:00 pm. Meeting held at the Town Hall Annex

In attendance:

Alex Fiandaca, Mark Fiandaca, Faith Pistrang, Karen Rossow, Ken Seims

The meeting began at 7:10 pm. An agenda was distributed.

Item #1 – Yard Sale Update: Faith announced that a grand total of \$1,850.45 was raised at the Town-wide Yard Sale and that Larry Pistrang was very proud of the fact that \$220 of that was raised at the Bake Sale table. She thanked everyone who helped either with donations, set-up and manning the tables throughout the day and cleaning up. She also said that everything went smoothly with the next day pick-up by Salvation Army and thanked Karen Rossow for the six beautiful signs.

Item #2 – Preservation Conference, Friday, October 18th from 8 AM to 6 PM in Lexington, MA – Alex reminded everyone of this upcoming conference, presented by the Mass Preservation Coalition. Many topics relevant to MH will be covered in workshops throughout the day. It is hoped that a few Friends will be able to attend so that many of the workshops can be covered.

Item #3 – Visit to Berlin on Sunday, October 27th, starting at 3 PM. Alex announced a tour and meeting with Evy Dueck, the President of *19 Carter*, a non-profit organization dedicated to saving Berlin's Old Church. The tour will begin at 3 PM at the Old Church located at 19 Carter Street followed by a tour of Berlin's 1870 Old Town Hall located at 12 Woodward Avenue. Contact Alex if you are interested in attending/carpooling.

Item #4 – Wellfleet Preservation Hall (slide show) – Alex and Mark presented a slide show of their visit to Preservation Hall in Wellfleet, a century-old church that suffered years of neglect and was saved by a concerned group of citizens. The building was rehabilitated within five years and now serves as a bustling community arts center and function hall. The slide show will be posted on the *Progress* page of the Friends website.

Item #5 - WPI Engineering Study Update: Ken told us that the students have made a total of 3 visits, the second of which included Prof. Albano. The most recent visit occurred on Tuesday, 9/24, coinciding with the last drop-off date for the yard sale. This last visit was to double check their measurements. No further visits are anticipated while they work on the details of their analysis. A report is expected in the spring.

Item #6 - Ad Space in the Landmark – Ken reported that our \$280 voucher + \$5 entitles us to a ¼ page ad. There will be an issue on November 7th that will be sent to every home in the 5-town area. The officers agree that we should use our ad in that issue.

Friends are asked to send their ideas on what the ad should say to Ken as soon as possible so we can finalize the wording of the ad. The deadline for submitting the ad is October 29th. The voucher must be used by the end of the year.

Item #7 – Building and Grounds Update – Mark will be checking with the Highway Department as to where the obsolete duct work that was removed from the basement will be stored. Further cleaning of the basement will occur along with the removal of rotted wood.

Item #8 – American Legion Cabinet – Alex and Mark investigated the contents of the cabinet by removing one door from its hinges. Items found inside include Legion Post 334 by-laws, meeting minutes, treasurer receipts, two flags and flag stands, general American Legion information and catalogs dating back to the 1950's. Ed Foresteire, a former member of the post, is interested in looking over the contents. The contents are moldy and Karen offered to make inquiries at the Antiquarian Society about the proper handling of moldy documents.

Item #9 – Kickstarter Program – Mark and Karen spoke about a kickstarter program to raise money. It is available for non-profits. More to come on this.

Item #10 – Future All Hands Meeting – Alex and Mark introduced the idea for an All Hands meeting that would encourage ALL the Friends to attend a progress meeting at which each subcommittee would present its progress. We would invite the press, the Board of Selectmen and advertise it in advance. Refreshments are a possibility. It was suggested that this would make sense in the spring after we receive the report from the WPI study.

Item #11 – Facebook Page – Faith suggested that we develop a Facebook page for MH to stay current with the popularity of social media. More to come on this.

Item #12 – Grants – Faith informed the committee that the officers met to review three (3) grant submissions to the Princeton Cultural Council. Faith was thanked for her efforts in writing the grants. The grants would fund supplies needed to create informational presentations for grades K – 2 and 3 – 5 at Thomas Prince School and one for the Seniors in town. These will be submitted tomorrow.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 14th at 7 PM in the Town Hall Annex.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Seims
Secretary, FOMH