

Friends of Mechanics Hall

Meeting Minutes

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

In attendance:

Alex Fiandaca, Mark Fiandaca, Ed Foresteire, Faith Pistrang, Larry Pistrang, Karen Rossow, Ken Seims, Mickey Splaine, Geoff Yaglou

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

Item #1 – Visit to Old Church and 1870 Old Town Hall, Berlin, MA on Sunday, October 27th – Alex presented a slide show of our visit to Berlin, MA on 10/27/13.

Item #2 – Landmark “Non-Issue” Advertisement – November 7th issue, page 63 – Ken passed around a copy of our ad that appeared on page 63 of the November 7th issue of The Landmark. He said that the Officers had decided to utilize our ad voucher (+ \$5) to place a ¼ page ad in this issue which was sent to ALL households in the 5 towns.

Item #3 – WPI Update – Ken informed us that the 3 students have presented their End of A Term Report listing their A Term accomplishments and B Term Expectations on their Rehabilitation of Mechanics Hall project. It included Autocad drawings of the basement, 1st and 2nd floors (Note: The location of two additional doors on the first floor have been brought to their attention). Faith suggested that we try to have an article written for the Landmark describing the partnership between FOMH and WPI. Ken volunteered to write such an article and see if Phyllis Booth will run it.

Item #4 – Building and Grounds Update – Mark told us that he and Alex made a trip to the dump to dispose of the old wood from the basement. There are plans to decorate MH for the holidays.

Item #5 – Window News – Alex reported that an inventory of the windows at Mechanics Hall (capturing the condition of each window) has been compiled. Alex has begun contacting window restorers for a rough estimate for repair. Many of the windows require reglazing and repainting only but some (particularly those damaged by squirrels) will require more extensive repair. Also, Elizabeth has contacted the Preservation Carpentry department at the North Bennett Street School in Boston. They offer limited window restoration (for a fee) to select candidates and Alex will follow-up with the school to see if Mechanics Hall might meet their criteria.

Item #6 – Like Us On Facebook – Mark has established a Facebook page for the Friends of Mechanics Hall and everyone is encouraged us to sign on and to “like” us.

Item #7 – On Line Auction – Faith suggested that we hold an on line auction to sell items of value left over from the yard sale as well as the donated birdhouses and

children's chairs made by an East Princeton artisan. Remaining yard sale items include a motorcycle seat, a Staffordshire platter, goblets, a brass lamp and antique mother-of-pearl opera glasses). Discussion followed as to whether an on line auction was appropriate or whether we should list the items on Craig's List. It was then suggested that we sell the 11 birdhouses and the 2 chairs at the Congregational Church Holiday Craft Fair on December 7th. Mickey volunteered to operate the table and further details will be worked out as to table set-up and coverage.

Item #8 – Princeton Cultural Council Grants – Faith announced that FOMH have been awarded 2 grants (of the 3 requests we submitted). The grants support presentations of the history of East Princeton Village with a focus on the industrial nature of the village and its chair-making factories and the relationship between them and Mechanics Hall to the 3rd through 5th grade at the Thomas Prince School and to the seniors in town. Alex, Faith and Ken will work on this project presentation in the fall of 2014. For the students, we will prepare a 30 to 45 minute presentation and a short story book. For the seniors, we will prepare a pamphlet and brochure about the history of the East Princeton Village and MH.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9th at 7 PM in the Town Hall Annex.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Seims
Secretary, FOMH