

Friends of Mechanics Hall

Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2014; 7:00 pm. Meeting held at the Town Hall Annex

In attendance:

Alex Fiandaca, Mark Fiandaca, Elizabeth Hammond, Karen Rossow, Ken Seims and Geoff Yaglou

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

Item #1 – East Princeton Art Project – Princeton artist Len Haug is planning to create a series of paintings (12 to 15) that capture Mechanics Hall and the East Princeton area, both from a current and historical perspective. Len has offered to give the Friends of Mechanics Hall limited rights (at no cost) to the use of the images for fund raising purposes. Len would maintain ownership of the originals, however the originals could be exhibited at FOMH fund raising events or placed on public display to raise community interest and promote subsequent sale of reprints (calendars, note cards, etc.). The Friends are very enthusiastic about the idea but acknowledged that the expense of reprints will need to be considered. Len's estimated time frame for completion is the summer of 2015. Len has produced four paintings in the series so far.

Item #2 – The 3 students have completed their project and provided us with copies of their report. Alex, Faith and Ken plan to attend the event at WPI on Thursday, April 24th when their project results will be displayed. They will also meet with the students in advance of the 24th for a full presentation of the students' findings. These results, along with Justin McCarthy's analysis, will provide concrete details and cost estimates for stabilization measures. In the near future, we will meet with John Lebeaux to get permission to move forward with our initial list of work items and to appear before the Board of Selectmen to update them on our progress.

Item #3 – American Legion cabinet – Jim Sullivan of the Sterling American Legion Post emptied and organized the contents of the Legion cabinet in Mechanics Hall. (Princeton Legion members transferred to the Sterling Legion after the closing of Princeton's Post 334.) Jim and Alex met recently at Mechanics Hall and Jim offered Post 334's original petition for membership into the Legion to FOMH as well as the temporary charter granted on November 8, 1945. Other items of interest was a portion of a 1955 calendar featuring Princeton birthdays, created by the Legion in support of Princeton's Little League in 1955 as well as a 1962 Princeton telephone directory and Legion meeting minutes dating to the 1960s. Jim arranged to take the cabinet to the Sterling Legion hall.

Item #4 – Friends of the Library Book Sale – the sale is scheduled for May 31st and June 1st at MH. Due to prior commitments of many of the Friends, we will not be participating this year.

Item #5 – Senior Outreach – Elizabeth and Geoff have offered to be involved with interviewing seniors and putting the interviews on tape.

Item #6 – Duct remnants and Tree Removal – The removal of the pile of duct work disassembled from the basement and 4 ash trees in the rear was discussed.

Item #7 – Future Meetings – The officers have decided that future meetings of the FOMH will be held quarterly instead of monthly. The Friends also discussed the possibility of holding a meeting/event at Sawyer Field in the near future.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 12th at 7 PM in the Town Hall Annex.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Seims
Secretary, FOMH