

Friends of Mechanics Hall

Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2013; 7:00 pm. Meeting held at the Town Hall Annex

In Attendance:

Tom Daly, Larry Deblois, Sheila Dubman, Judy Dino, Alex Fiandaca, Mark Fiandaca, Elizabeth Hammond, Matt Lindberg, Teddy Lindberg, Phil Mighdoll, Karen Rossow, Ken Seims, Judy Tyler, Geoff Yaglou.

The meeting began shortly after 7 pm. An agenda was distributed along with 2 handouts:

- Copy of the Preservation Restriction Document for the Library.
- Copy of the Secretary of the Interior's Introduction to the Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

For copies of these, please contact Alex.

Old Business:

1. Building and Grounds Update (Mark): The gutters will be removed by PMLD using their bucket truck. No date has been set for that yet. We have reached out to Mr. Adam re: a visit to MH. Mark suggested that the Officers of FOMH establish a budget for Buildings and Grounds for items like grass seed. Phil Grzyb gave a verbal estimate which he will provide in writing shortly. He recommends replacing the timbers in the basement with proper footings, put a footing and four foot wall under the addition and jack it up to level. Mark suggested we do a basement clean-out. The temporary electrical upgrade would cost approx. \$2,800.
2. Business Outreach (Larry D.): He has placed a call to Ann Littlefield but has not as yet spoken to her. He hopes to have some info for our next meeting.
3. Landmark Non-Issue (Ken): He described the details of the Landmark's April 11th Non-Issue. Current subscribers can designate a local non-profit to receive \$20 in advertising credit for the organization's future use. If subscribers add a year onto their subscription, the amount doubles to \$40. New subscribers would also trigger a \$40 credit. Each organization would earn the sum total of all designated credits. Ken mentioned that there are over a half dozen non-profits in Princeton with which we will be competing. Alex has sent an e-mail to our Friend's list encouraging them to designate FOMH.
4. Farm Stand - Jim Camp: Alex and Faith met with him re: his plan to place his farm stand in front of MH this spring and summer. He plans to utilize a portable shed. He was told there was no electricity available from MH and Jim will seek alternatives. John Lebeaux referred Jim to the building

inspector. The final decision on whether he can use the facility rests with the Town. John Lebeaux suggested Jim touch base with the Friends as a courtesy.

New Business:

1. Board of Selectmen meeting held on March 25th: Comments were solicited from members who attended, including the financial obligation re: on-going maintenance, a comparison to the Library and the Princeton Center, buy it for \$1 and seek outside funding, make some improvements and then go to Town Meeting in the future.
2. Review Preservation Restriction: This was reviewed with particular attention to maintenance and alterations.
3. Review treatment approaches as defined by the Secy. of the Interior's Standards: The four treatment categories - Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration and Reconstruction - were introduced and briefly discussed. No consensus was attained on which treatment would apply to our activities with MH.
4. Update on meeting with Harriet Chandler (Phil): She is aware of everything that has transpired, is willing to help and asked if we knew of any private foundations in Town. She recommended that we buy MH because she recognized the other priorities that the BOS is managing.
5. CMRPC Rural 11 (Karen): Karen reported on a meeting held April 4th by CMRPC which included members of the BOS, Planning Board, Ag Comm Con, Comm and Open Space Committee.
CMRPC is "Central Mass Regional Planning Commission" www.cmrpc.org. It's a state-sponsored planning organization with offices in the Union Station building in Worcester. They provide planning services to municipalities who can't afford to have their own planning staff. Basically, they do planning studies. The CMRPC Rural 11 is a planning effort that would provide documentation and information that towns and the region can use to apply for future CMRPC technical assistance, DOT projects, possibly Dept of Agriculture Resources funding, other state grants such as MassWorks or DCR grants to assist with the advancement of priority development areas, conservation areas, and infrastructure projects.
Mechanics Hall was included on CMRPC's list of priorities for Princeton. Also, there was also interest among the Ag Comm and Con Comm to use this program to help establish a farmers' cooperative and possibly a cooperative kitchen for canning and pies, etc.
6. WPI Study: The Officers met with Pat Austin of DCR and will meet with Prof. Albano of WPI on Friday, 4/12 at MH. Our hope is that he will agree to include an engineering study of MH in his plans for projects for his students next fall.

Reminders:

- May 4th at 1 PM: Princeton Historical Society tour of East Princeton and Mechanics Hall.
- June 1st and 2nd: Open House at MH in conjunction with the Friends of the Library Book Sale. We need volunteers to assist with the open house and to hand out info.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, May 9th at 7 pm in the Town Hall Annex.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Seims
Secretary