

Friends of Mechanics Hall

Meeting Minutes

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

In attendance:

Herb Bingham, Larry Deblois, Sheila Dubman, Alex Fiandaca, Mark Fiandaca, Elizabeth Hammond, Phil Mighdoll, Faith Pistrang, Larry Pistrang, Ken Seims

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

News:

1. 501(c)(3) Update: Alex announced that we have received our 501(c)(3) designation from the IRS and that we are now officially a charitable organization with tax exempt status. She thanked Phil and Ken for their efforts in making this happen. Phil will follow-up the AGO to inform them of this fact.
2. Special Donation: Alex announced the receipt of an American Legion cap from Dick Anderson, now living in WA, a former Commander of Post 334 that met in MH. This led to a discussion of what other treasures we might find in the locked closet. Alex will write a Thank You to Mr. Anderson and solicit information about the Legion's use of the building. Mark announced that he had purchased a school bell and is donating it to the FOMH.

Discussion:

1. Recognition of Sponsors: We all agreed that attracting more sponsors (we currently have 2 - Barre Savings Bank and Sonoma) will require an appealing program of recognition that be closely tied to our promotional efforts. Promotion will involve our website, a possible periodic Newsletter (with perhaps a contribution envelope enclosed), fund raising advertising and other event programs. Phil mentioned the USPS Every Door/Direct Mail program (approx. \$250) and will follow-up with more details. Volunteers will be needed for these efforts and for general publicity, press releases, etc. Sheila agreed to draft a press release re: our 501(c)(3) designation to be sent to the Landmark and other local newspapers.
2. Levels of Support: Ken read his suggestion for sponsor recognition (see attached). Many in attendance favored the *Pillars of Support* concept, inspired by the façade of the building. All agreed the details will need further discussion and refinement if it is to be used. In the near term, we need to provide promotional sponsor recognition; for the long term, a fixed display or plaque inside MH thanking our sponsors. The idea of a calendar was put forth that could showcase

our sponsors. Phil suggested we consider what the Heti Federation has done where various levels of support are rewarded with various levels of promotion, such as the size and duration of advertising on the website, newsletters, etc.

Updates:

1. Thank You to Elizabeth for her research on what other Towns have done to restore old Town buildings. Larry P. indicated that he had been doing his research as well. Elizabeth also provided information on Clivus composting toilets that may be appropriate for use in a refurbished MH.

2. There was discussion of the CPA Program (Community Preservation Act) and were informed that the State match has been significantly reduced.

3. Thank You to Geoff for all his work recording the condition of MH and providing several recommendations.

4. Gutter Removal: The existing gutters are doing more harm than good. Mark has a quote from John Wright to remove the gutters in pieces. We are awaiting a formal proposal that can then be given to John L. to review. It was agreed that this work should be done as soon as possible.

5. Funding Proposal for Kim Ferguson: Faith updated us on her progress with this proposal. She has much of it already written. Phil and Mark will provide her with their cost projections through 2016 that were developed using a project management approach. There was mention of an MPPF grant that we should be eligible to receive but will likely require matching funds. Faith will meet with Kim Ferguson during her Princeton office hours on January 14th to review our progress on the proposal and seek any additional guidance she might offer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, February 28th at 7 pm in the Town hall Annex.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Seims
Secretary

ATTACHMENT

RECOMMENDATION FOR RECOGNITION OF BUSINESS/CORPORATE SUPPORTERS OF FOMH

When I look at MH, my attention is always drawn to the columns or **pillars** bedecking the front of the building. The definition of a pillar is two-fold:

- a firm upright support for a (sic) “super”-structure; and
- a supporting, integral, or upstanding member or part of an organization

This led me to call our business/corporate supporters

THE PILLARS OF PRINCETON’S MECHANICS HALL

As a business/corporate supporter of Mechanics Hall in Princeton, you join a group of volunteers dedicated to saving this historical Town landmark and restoring her to her former glory. Your financial contribution will assist us in accomplishing the many repairs and restoration efforts required to return her to her rightful place as a functioning Town building with possible future utilization by the Town residents.

There are four (4) levels of giving for you to consider:

PLATINUM PILLAR - \$5,000 OR MORE

GOLD PILLAR - \$2,500 TO \$4,999

SILVER PILLAR - \$1,000 TO \$2,499

BRONZE PILLAR - \$500 TO \$999

Donor businesses/corporations will be prominently mentioned in our promotional material as well as in our grant requests for Federal, State and local agencies funding in support of our efforts.

In addition, a business/corporate Honor Roll will be established and enshrined on a plaque to be prominently displayed in Mechanics Hall when the restoration work is completed.

Ken Seims