

## Friends of Mechanics Hall

### Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2013; 7:00 pm. Meeting held at the Town Hall Annex

In attendance:

Tom Daly, Sheila Dubman, Alex Fiandaca, Mark Fiandaca, Elizabeth Hammond, Annmarie Hurley, Phil Mighdoll, Faith Pistrang, Larry Pistrang, Ken Seims

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

1. Friends of the Library (FOTL) Book Sale – June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The FOTL have invited us to partner with them during their book sale. Some suggestions for us were a bake sale or sell T-shirts or sell a cook book comprised of recipes from the old cook book we found. There will be further discussion on this item.
2. Reconnaissance Slide Show: Alex presented a slide show based on Elizabeth's research of the following examples of restoration and reuse. (Thank you to Mark for creating the power point presentation.)
  - Boston City Hall
  - West Barnstable's Old Selectman's Building
  - Berlin 1870 Town Hall
  - Bedford Old Town Hall

The slide show will soon be posted on our website with instructions on how to access it.

3. Historic Structure Report (HSR): Alex distributed copies of "Preservation Brief 43: The Preparation and Use of Historic Structure Reports" by Deborah Slaton of the National Park Service. "An HSR provides documentary, graphic and physical information about a property's history and existing condition. Broadly recognized as an effective part of preservation planning, an HSR also addresses management or owner goals for the use or re-use of the property". Please contact Alex if you are interested in obtaining a copy of the handout or visit [www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/briefs/brief43.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/briefs/brief43.htm).
4. Community Preservation Act (CPA): Alex distributed a 2-page handout entitled "Preserving Princeton with the Community Preservation Act". Katherine Roth of the Community Preservation Coalition held an informational meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup> in Princeton. Members of the Open Space Committee and FOMH were in attendance. The discussion covered the types of projects eligible for CPA, the process for adopting the bylaw and the process for selecting projects once the bylaw is in place. CPA has been revised to cover a

greater variety of projects which could mean broader support among Princeton residents. Please contact Alex if you are interested in obtaining a copy of the handout.

5. Preservation Restriction (PR): All projects supported by the Mass Preservation Project Fund must have a PR in place to preserve the property's architectural and historical integrity. Grant applications are required to demonstrate that a PR will be established in the event that funds are awarded. A letter of intent is needed from the BOS. The Officers will be meeting with John Lebeaux on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss this and request such a letter of intent from our BOS.

The FOMH will also be applying to the Secretary of State's Office for emergency funding to address the more urgent repairs that are needed in MH. A copy of the letter of intent must accompany this application. Further discussion is needed to decide on how much money we should request. Since the Town of Barre recently received such an emergency grant, we will secure a copy of their application to determine format and amount.

6. Funding Proposal for Kim Ferguson: The Officers have been meeting frequently over the past few weeks in order to finalize the funding proposal for Rep. Kim Ferguson. They anticipate completing the proposal within the next few weeks.

Additional items of discussion:

- Tom Daly suggested that we send a note to the Planning Board stating that we don't see a need at this time to extend the business district to include MH.
- Mark gave a 'bravo' to our publicist as there seems to be mention of FOMH every week in the Landmark.
- The issue of tax-exempt letters was raised. It was agreed that either a letter or an e-mail will be sent, on FOMH letterhead, to all contributors in 2012 and to date in 2013 and to all future donators.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in the Town Hall Annex.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Seims  
Secretary