

## **Friends of Mechanics Hall**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**August 8, 2013, 7:00 pm Town Hall Annex**

(NOTE: THERE WAS NO MEETING HELD IN JULY 2013).

In attendance:

Alex Fiandaca, Mark Fiandaca, Faith Pistrang, Larry Pistrang, Karen Rossow, Ken Seims, Mickey Splaine

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

- Listing of Worcester Area Farmers' Markets; and
- Excerpts from the FOMH Business Plan with the original text in black and our accomplishments to date in red.

For copies of these handouts, please contact Alex Fiandaca.

Item #1 -The Landmark Non-Issue: Ken reported that we have earned \$280 worth of advertising space as a result of submissions from current subscribers designating FOMH as their non-profit of choice, new subscribers and current subscribers extending their subscriptions for another year. Ken will contact the Landmark to determine just how much space this translates into. Once known, we will decide how to best use this space. It must be used by 12/31/13.

Item #2 -WPI Engineering Study: Ken reported that as a result of meetings held with Prof. Albano in the spring, it is expected that a team of students will undertake an engineering study of MH during the fall semester. Ken has recently been in touch with Prof. Albano by e-mail (no response yet) to arrange for a site visit by the students in early September.

Item #3 - Farmers' Market Reconnaissance: Alex discussed the handout and listing markets in the Worcester area, their day(s) and times of operation and the duration into the fall. She asked friends, should they visit any of these markets, to pay attention to their method of operation, the products sold, the layout of the market, etc. There has been discussion about having a market at MH and we hope to gain an understanding of what's involved in such an undertaking. If anyone should visit any of these markets, please send your impressions and information to Alex.

Item #4 - Grant Search Update: Alex reported that Faith will be pursuing a grant application to a private foundation due this fall and possibly a Cultural Council grant as well. We have pre-screened about one hundred foundations via the Foundation Center

Database (available in the Worcester and Leominster libraries) and about a dozen of these show promise. Further research will include learning more about each foundation and the specific projects they have funded in the past as well as amounts typically awarded, method of approach (application form vs. letter of intent vs. proposal) and application deadlines.

Item #5 - Preservation Conference, Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 8 AM to 6 PM in Lexington, MA:

Alex discussed the conference, presented by the Mass Preservation Coalition. It will cover many topics relevant to the FOMH including: building local support; maintaining an active Friends group; identifying and cultivating donors; finding new life for vacant properties; applying the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the treatment of historic properties; energy efficiency, code compliance and accessibility in historic buildings and many more. For more information, visit [www.mapreservationconference.org](http://www.mapreservationconference.org). The fee to attend is \$35 if registered by 9/30/13; \$50 by 10/13/13 and \$60 after 10/13/13. The FOMH will not be paying for any Friends who plan to attend.

Item #6 - Town-Wide Yard Sale: Faith announced that the FOMH will participate once again in this event scheduled for Sat., 9/28/13 from 8 AM to 2 PM. We will solicit donations from the general public. Drop-off dates have been scheduled for Sat., 9/14 from 10 AM to Noon; Tues., 9/17 and Tues., 9/24 from 3 to 5:30 PM. Where possible, items will be priced as they arrive and pricing dates have been set for Wed., 9/18 and Wed., 9/25 from 1 to 3:30 PM. Some attendees at the meeting have already volunteered for these sessions but other volunteers are needed. If you are available to help out, please contact Faith. Karen volunteered to make signs to be placed around town with the drop-off dates and times as well as a flyer. Baked goods will also be offered for sale. If you plan to bake something, please contact Faith.

Item #7 - Buildings and Grounds Update: Mark discussed two projects that are planned – a basement clean-out and the removal of duct work. Permission will be requested to do these from the Select Board via John Lebeaux. A bag-style dumpster, available at Home Depot, which Waste Management will remove, was suggested for the debris. The duct work must go to the Highway Dept.

Item #8 - Phase I and Phase II Business Plan Handout: Alex discussed the handout which details our business plan goals and our accomplishments toward those goals to date. All in attendance were impressed by the extent of our accomplishments over the past year and a half. It was suggested that this information be shared with the Select Board.

Item # 9 - Alex also announced that the Officers voted unanimously to authorize negotiations with Old Colony Housewrights (OCH) to engage their services to perform a complete building evaluation and provide a preliminary cost report for the work needed to be done. Faith has initiated contact with OCH.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Seims  
Secretary, FOMH