

**Notes from the FOMH Leadership Meeting and Celebration  
Saturday, March 14, 2015 at 7PM at Faith and Larry Pistrang's Home**

Attendees: Faith Pistrang, Larry Pistrang, Mark Fiandaca, Alex Fiandaca, Ken Seims, Mickey Splaine, Karen Rossow, Doug August, Judy Tyler, Herb Bingham, Helen Townsend, Matt Lindberg, Tina Paradiso

The Leadership Meeting began at 8 PM.

1. Faith informed everyone about change in leadership. Due to Alex taking on a full-time job, she resigned as President. Faith has accepted the position as President, Mark has accepted the position as Vice-President and Larry has accepted the position as Treasurer. Ken remains as Secretary.
2. Faith expressed the thanks of all assembled to Alex for her tireless efforts over the past three years on behalf of the FOMH. As a token of our appreciation, she was presented with the flowers that graced the serving table.
3. Faith briefly reviewed the two PCC grants from last year – one for the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Thomas Prince and one for the seniors.
  - a. Ken described the interaction with Thomas Prince regarding the book he wrote titled “Christine and the Curious Chair”. The book served as the vehicle for relating the history of East Princeton, its involvement in the chair making industry in the second half of the 19th century and the prominence of Mechanics Hall in the lives of the residents. He also described the involvement of the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade art class in providing the drawings that were used to illustrate the book. Ken also spoke about the presentation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Thomas Prince involving also Arlene, Faith and his daughter, Meridyth, who built a water wheel to demonstrate how the chair makers harnessed the power of Keyes Brook to drive their machinery. The artists who contributed drawings were recognized and each given an autographed copy of the book. Copies of the book were passed around along with a copy of the Landmark article written by Phyllis Booth.
  - b. Mark described the plans for the presentation to be given to the Seniors in October of this year. We will utilize a portion of the presentation he and Alex gave about East Princeton and Mechanics Hall with the hope that the seniors will provide us with their memories of East Princeton and stories of their experiences with the Hall.
4. Larry gave an update on the balance in our account. We now have \$7,389.77 in the bank.
5. Mark announced our plans for a Beautification Day on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 11:30 AM to spruce up the area around MH, plant some flowers and put up Karen's banner. Faith asked for volunteers to assist in this beautification effort.
6. Faith announced our plans to have a bake sale on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> (afternoon) and Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup> (all day) coordinated with the Friends of the Library book sale. Faith asked for volunteers to bake and man the tables. Helen suggested that we expand this to include jams and jellies and that we invite a crafter or 2 to set up their tables at the sale.

## 7. Other fund raising plans

a. Ken discussed Amazon Smile and the ability to designate a non-profit to receive a portion of the sales done through Amazon. FOMH is listed as one of the charities to be designated. He will provide information on how to do this via an e-mail.

b. Larry spoke of our plans to host a trail race at Thomas Prince School in late August. Though we would prefer to do one beginning and ending at MH, there are good reasons not to hold it there:

- > We would need porta potties -- too much money taken from our profits.
- > Parking will be an issue. If we have runners park at Krashes, they and their families will have to walk Rte. 31. This will no doubt upset the police.
- > Any race on the roads of Princeton would require a police presence, the cost of which is prohibitive.

## 8. It is time for the FOMH to Celebrate!

- > To celebrate our being a group for three years
- > To celebrate our being a 501 (c)3; and
- > Most of all, to celebrate the friendships we have formed as a result of the FOMH

We knew when we began this undertaking that it would be a lengthy process. Ken described it as a marathon and said we should be proud that we've completed the first 5K!

## 9. The Board of Directors thanked everyone for coming and recited the following, in unison:

10.

11. As officers of Mechanics Hall

We wish to welcome one, and all!

We are real glad that you are here  
And we consider you so dear.

Relax, enjoy, just shoot the breeze  
And celebrate our friendship, please.

Three years it's been and we'll continue  
Until the hall is a proper venue.

Our little meeting is complete,  
So talk and mingle, drink and eat.

Hoorah! Hooray! That's all we'll say.  
Thanks for coming and have a nice day.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ken Seims, Secretary