

Friends of Mechanics Hall

Meeting Summary

July 12, 2012, 7:00 PM.
Mechanics Hall South Lawn

In Attendance:

Larry Deblois, Sheila Dubman, Alex and Mark Fiandaca, Elizabeth Hammond, Annmarie Hurley, Tom Lynch, Phil Mighdoll, Karen Rossow, Ken Seims, Mickey Splaine, Judy Tyler and Geoff Yaglou.

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

Tree Removal: The Select Board has approved our plans for removing four (4) trees from the property around the building; three (3) on the south side and one (1) on the north side as well as some branch trimming. Mark will be contacting Princeton Tree to set up a date for the work.

Preservation MA Most Endangered Historic Resource Nomination: Alex has been working on the application to get MH selected for this designation. The due date for the filing of the application is August 3rd. We will be on the agenda for the BOS meeting on July 16th to obtain their endorsement of our plans to apply. A statement of their support of our efforts will be included with the application.

Town-Wide Yard Sale: We will participate in the yard sale on 9/29. It is a rain or shine event so we must be prepared. Faith has scheduled drop-off dates of Sat., 9/15 and Tues., 9/18 at MH. The specific times will be determined and advertised through the Landmark and our website. Any items that do not sell will be donated ~~the same day~~ to the Epilepsy Foundation. There was much discussion about how we will decide what items to take and what items to reject. All reasonable items will be accepted. Decisions will be made by those manning the drop-offs. A subsequent date(s) will be scheduled for decisions on pricing the items. A sign-up sheet will be available that day to solicit new members.

Fundraising Event at Sonoma's: An event has been tentatively scheduled for Thurs., 11/8. It will be by invitation with suggested donation amount. Ken suggested that we include a raffle with one significant (donated) prize to raise extra money at the event.

New Friend: Phil Mighdoll mentioned that Phil Gryzb (a new member of FOMH) was involved with earlier studies of the condition of MH and was aware of the water damage on the south side nearly ten (10) years ago.

Lead Paint: This issue was discussed again and some questions arose regarding lead testing and lead paint removal. The Friends agreed it is important to have the work performed by qualified professionals and that a better understanding of lead paint laws will allow us to make informed decisions going forward.

Orchard House (Concord) Visit: Elizabeth reported that the August 12th visit has been rescheduled to Sunday, August 5th at approx. 3 PM. Carpooling details will follow for those planning to attend.

Donation: Alex reported a recent mail-in donation of \$50 and will send a thank you note shortly.

Other Discussion Items:

- Phil heard from John Shipman who was hoping that a single room in MH could be renovated early as available meeting space for the Town. This would be a new short-term goal. It would require a functioning toilet and Geoff suggested a tight tank as an easier fix. This requires further discussion.
- This led to discussion of the antiquated electric service in the building (post & knob). It is dangerous and could lead to a fire. Geoff mentioned Al Lindsey (?), a licensed electrician, who is willing to survey the condition of the wiring and would run a new 200 amp service gratis. Geoff also spoke of Joe Lindquist (?), a licensed plumber, willing to survey the current plumbing situation. Any work done re: electrical service or plumbing would require building permits.
- It was suggested that we schedule an INSIDE clean-up day in the near future as well as an inventory of the Veterans cabinet, for which there is no known key. (Previously the Friends of the Library opened the cabinet by lifting off the hinges.)

Committees: Alex opened discussion on the list of committees, seeking any additional volunteers.

- Fundraising is underway with four volunteers.
- It was suggested that Community Outreach and Publicity be combined with Future Use. But it was decided to keep them separate.
- Phil and Mark, Future Use committee, agreed to work on researching other towns that have successfully rehabbed a municipal building.
- Alex and Sheila agreed to work on Historic Research/ East Princeton Village Outreach.
- It was also suggested that Grounds Planning and Maintenance evolve into Building Stabilization and ultimately Restoration Planning. Phil Gryzb was appointed to this committee in absentia.
- Karen volunteered to assist Sheila with grant writing efforts (captured under the Fundraising committee).
- Karen suggested that The Friends participate in Hey Day this fall (October) at Wachusett Meadow. Mark volunteered to represent the Friends.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 9th (location to be determined).

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Seims
Secretary