

Friends of Mechanics Hall

Meeting Summary

December 13, 2012, 7:00 PM. Meeting held at Town Hall Annex.

In attendance:

Larry Deblois, Sheila Dubman, Alex Fiandaca, Mark Fiandaca, Elizabeth Hammond, Annmarie Hurley, Tom Lynch, Faith Pistrang, Larry Pistrang, Ken Seims, Mickey Splaine and Geoff Yaglou.

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

Updates:

1. CELEBRATE MECHANICS HALL (11/15): Alex thanked everyone for the help with our fund raiser, with a special thank you to Faith for her planning and coordination of the event.
2. Preservation Mass Endangered Resources event (11/8): Well attended including SR Kim Ferguson.
3. Meeting with Historical Society (11/10): Presentation went very well. Preliminary plans for an E. Princeton Tour next spring to include MH.
4. 501(c)3 application: Submitted 10/16; receipt acknowledged 11/14. We are now in 90-day pending review waiting period.
5. Funding proposal for Kim Ferguson: It was agreed that we need real estimates from contractors to develop this proposal. Mark suggested that we define near-term work (must have for stabilization) by trade, short-term work (the bulk of our efforts) and long-term work (nice to have). Geoff presented information he had gathered regarding gutters estimates, lead paint testing and training requirements. Geoff also offered to approach Don Stedman for a plumbing estimate.
6. Thank you for the MH decorating crew: Alex thanked the crew that added some holiday decorations to MH.
7. Elizabeth has been in contact with Jodie Ackerman of Shirley's Historic Center Town Hall and has arranged two tentative meeting/tour dates. It was suggested that the visit be postponed until March, after the funding proposal is complete. Elizabeth will reschedule with Ms. Ackerman and will invite Robert Adam, a preservation carpenter who lives in Shirley Center, to join the meeting.

Discussion:

1. By-Laws review: Alex referred to the attachment to the meeting notice e-mail of the By-Laws that were adopted by the Officers on 9/19/12. Such a document was required for our submissions to the Sec. of State, the Attn General and the IRS. Based on recommendations from other groups, we decided NOT to establish a formal membership structure as this brings additional legal scrutiny and requires that all matters, no matter how small, to be decided upon by group vote. It was noted that having the flexibility to make decisions on-the-fly has greatly facilitated the Friends' progress thus far. Instead of "members" the organization shall have "Friends" whom the Officers look to for input, comment and participation. Unlike members, Friends have no legal responsibility to the organization.
2. Road Race Fundraiser: Larry Pistrang offered the idea for a 5K Road Race fundraiser. He had focused on a date in June 2013 until learning of the Princeton FD's plan for a 5K trail race, also in June. Larry suggested rescheduling until late August using a course that starts and ends at Krashes Fields and turns around at MH.
3. Two suggestions were made for a calendar fundraiser featuring historic photos relevant to Mechanics Hall including photos of former students/classes.
4. Larry P., Annmarie and Elizabeth volunteered to begin contacting towns that have successfully re-used former meeting halls. Contacts are based on a list provided by Michele Barker of Preservation Mass. Sheila volunteered to contact the Barre Historical Commission to learn more about the grant they received recently for the restoration of their schoolhouse.

The next monthly meeting will be held on Thursday, January 10th at 7 PM in the Annex.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Seims
Secretary