

## NOTES FROM THE FRIENDS OF MECHANICS HALL (FOMH) – GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, June 11, 2015 at the Hall  
6:30 to 8:00 PM

Attendees: *Faith Pistrang, Larry Pistrang, Mark Fiandaca, Ken Seims, Alex Fiandaca, Judy Tyler, Karen Rossow, Anne Marie Hurley, Len Haug, Herb Bingham, Geoff Yaglou*

The FOMH banner was set up prior to the meeting which was held outside the Hall, on the lawn on the north side of the building.

Faith opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance. She introduced the officers and pointed out the change in leadership. Faith is the new President, Mark Fiandaca is the new Vice President and Larry Pistrang is the new Treasurer. Ken Seims continues as Secretary.

Faith read the mission statement of the FOMH – The mission of the FOMH is to save Mechanics Hall from further deterioration, restore the property in an historically sensitive manner and enable a transition to active use.

### > Events of last fall and this spring:

– Beautification Day (Mark) – a group of volunteers met at the Hall in early May to do a spring clean-up, plant flowers and tree, clear some brush and shrubs and generally spruce things up around the Hall.

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– Bake Sale (Faith) – Faith reported on the successful bake sale held in conjunction with the Friends of the Library book sale. Faith announced we raised \$330 as a result of the bake sale.

– March celebration of 3 years together as an organization (Larry) – Larry spoke about the meeting that he and Faith hosted in their home in March for the active members of FOMH to mark our 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary as an organization.

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– Presentation to 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Thomas Prince School last November (Ken) – Ken discussed the presentation, funded by a grant from the Princeton Cultural Council. He described the event which included Faith, his wife Arlene and their daughter, Meridyth. He spoke of Len Curcio, the chair maker from Gardner who wove a chair seat during the presentation, the sing-a-long with the children and the water wheel model that Meridyth built to show how the power of the water in Keyes Brook was transformed into energy to drive the mill machines. He also talked about the book he wrote, *Christine and the Curious Chair*, which was illustrated by students at the school and a copy of which was given to each of the artists as well as all the students who attended.

> **Goals for the upcoming** year (Mark) – Mark discussed our goals which include continuing to spread awareness of the FOMH and to do outreach. This will include a presentation in the fall to the seniors, a project funded by a grant from the Princeton Cultural Council. This will include a brochure with historical pictures of East Princeton and a informative pamphlet. We will also seek solutions to the water infiltration problem in the basement and continue our

fund raising efforts.

**> Events we have planned:**

– Trail race (Larry) – Larry spoke about a 5K trail race at Thomas Prince on August 15<sup>th</sup>. He has been in touch with Colleen Sands about her running club participating. Doing a trail race off-road avoids the expense of police details necessary for a race on the roads in Princeton. There will be an entry fee with T-shirts for the earliest entrants.

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– Town-wide Yard Sale (Mark) – We will again participate in Princeton's Town-wide yard sale on September 26<sup>th</sup>, soliciting donations of anything and everything. Drop off dates will be scheduled in advance of the sale date as well as pricing parties.

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– Seniors Presentation (Mark) – The Seniors presentation will be made at their luncheon on October 21<sup>st</sup> at noon at the First Congregational Church. We are coordinating with Sue Shanahan.

**> Ways to get involved (Faith):** Volunteers will be needed for the following:

– A garden at the Hall: We would like to have 3 people volunteer to plan and implement a flower garden. There will be money budgeted for this.

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– Trail Race – Larry will need volunteers to work the trail race.

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– Yard Sale – As usual, we will need volunteers to staff the drop off days and for the pricing parties.

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– Evaluation of contractors: We will need a group of volunteers to assist with the evaluation of potential contractors, especially those with building and drainage experience.

**> Len Haug's Art Project:** Len described his progress on the 24 – 16x20 paintings he is doing of various homes and scenes in East Princeton. He has completed 15 of them and plans to have them all completed by the end of 2016. FOMH will be permitted to use facsimiles of these paintings for fund raising purposes.

Refreshments were served and the meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ken Seims, Secretary*  
FOMH, Inc.