

FRIENDS OF MECHANICS HALL

Committee Summary (as of July, 2012)

Fundraising

Three separate efforts:

- Event planning, solicitations (develop strategies for fundraising - estimate potential per year).
- Creation and sale of promotional items (work with local artists and photographers for use of images of Mechanics Hall, develop official logo).
- Explore grant opportunities for both planning and restoration grants (refer to list of *preservation funding sources*, contact grant providers for copies of successful grant applications).

Members: Faith, Judy, Sheila, Larry D

Community Outreach and Publicity

- Promote Friends' efforts through local newspapers, town news, postings, mailings, etc., working closely with event planning efforts.

Members: Ken, Karen, Larry P

Future Use

- Explore partnerships with existing groups in town, starting with our best tenant, the Friends of the Library.
- Identify unmet needs in community (meet with residents, organizations, clubs and committees in Town and beyond) to gauge interest in meeting/function space and desired programs/services (refer to Town Guide published by the Landmark and Town Board and Committee summary).
- Explore sustainable uses (consult other towns*; refer to *town hall adaptive reuse list*) and address the ideas that have been proposed in previous Mechanics Hall studies and forums (see UTAC report).

*Outreach toward other towns will be of value to more than one committee. It might be most efficient if one committee served as the main contact.

Members: Phil, Mark

Historic Research/ East Princeton Village Outreach

- Research unanswered questions: original architect, builder, Farmers and Mechanics Association members, date lettering was installed, etc. using town documents, Historical Society records, American Antiquarian Society resources, etc.
- Interview long-time residents (past and present) and East Princeton Improvement Society members to engage residents in the Mechanics Hall effort. Develop knowledge and enhance grant applications with a richer history about the building.

Members: Alex, Sheila, Faith

Grounds Planning and Maintenance / Building Stabilization

- Establish property boundaries.
- Assess and plan removal of problem trees.
- Address short-term maintenance needs, plantings and long-term landscaping (consider access needs of for tree removal equipment, septic, etc.).
- Follow up with the Scouts' offer to provide ongoing maintenance.
- Investigate rodent controls/barriers (tree removal is key).
- Exterior paint and repair.
- Reach out to preservation schools (see list of *schools with preservation programs*) for possible technical assistance.
- Refer to UTAC report for prior assessments.

Members: Geoff, Tom, Mickey, Mark

Restoration Planning

- Investigate process for Structural Assessment and Feasibility Study (example study on Sterling Town website for the Old Town Hall).
- Work toward long-term project scope (example: *Master Plan of Old Academy Building*) sketches, architect and structural engineer involvement (seek referrals from happy towns).
- Explore sources of low-cost labor including Monty Tech, inmate labor, volunteers.

Members: TBD

See Alex for copies of documents appearing in italics