



DRIVING 21ST CENTURY PROSPERITY

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After hosting a forum entitled 'Mills, Money and Miracles' in January, The Fall River Mill Owners Association is entering its second year as an organization that encourages the renewed economic strength of Fall River's most important commercial and industrial buildings. The conference was attended by a variety of people concerned about the future of the city's 65 or so mills, including Mayor Flanagan and state representative David Sullivan, and other lawmakers, as well as mill owners, representatives from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Preservation Mass, local preservationists, architects, and planners. The meeting emphasized the long-established relationship between the economic health of the mills and that of the city.

According to its Mission Statement, the Mill Owners Association will:

- Form professional bonds among the city's mill owners based on common interests and purpose. This includes organizing a strong, unified group to negotiate contracts for utilities and services and seeking fairness in the taxation of working historic properties.
- Share information on architectural retrofit and restoration; tax credits, technology, strategy, financing, business planning — how to work together to maintain and strengthen the historic national assets that are the mills of Fall River.
- Establish the city's mills as a national resource and business magnet for high-tech, manufacturing and other kinds of (sustainable) start-ups, emerging and established companies, using the buildings as examples of renewable energy retrofits.
- Contribute to the tenor and pitch of city life by working with the municipal government to create long term prosperity based on the rich history of mills in Fall River and their importance to the city's economic future.
- Contribute imaginative, as well as practical, ideas to historic preservation organizations that will serve all mill owners in the rebuilding and restructuring of the city.

- Establish a website that will promote growth and continuity, and provide essential marketing tools, a newsletter, email, systematic meetings and related activities to foster harmony, mutual interest and purpose over the long haul.
- Form an alliance with mill owners, preservationists, and economic development entities in the other Gateway cities that will give a strong voice to our concerns on a statewide scale. This is especially important in regard to the preservation tax credit program and regional energy markets.
- Be an advocate for a master plan for Fall River that will make the use of our mill building assets and place them in the forefront of economic renewal.
- Leave a legacy of renewal and strength of Fall River mills that will be passed on from the current caretaker owners to the next generation.

All activities of the Mill Owners Association are based on the premise that the loss of a mill structure in Fall River degrades the city's potential for renewed economic health, that the presence of these sites can - and always has been - the basis for a strong local economy and jobs.

The FRMOA believes that an alliance of mill owners and those who are concerned about the disappearance of our great industrial heritage will have the political, commercial, and social leverage to influence decisions, locally and state-wide, that will determine how effectively our mill buildings will bolster the economy of the city.

The Association is looking for members who fit the above description and want to have a role in Fall River moving forward by utilizing its ample historical resources. Please call member Pat Tod at 401 225 6273 or email her at PatriciaTod@aol.com.