

SAUNDERS HOUSE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Monday, February 25, 2019, 10:30 am
Byers-Davidson Room, Saunders House
88 Middle Street, Gloucester, MA

Attendance: Prudence Fish, Bill Remsen, David Rhineland, Mern Sibley (Chair), and Library Director Deborah Kelsey

Not Present:

1. Welcome and introductions - this meeting is being recorded
2. Approval of minutes of January 14, 2019. Bill moved to approve the minutes as presented. David seconded and the minutes were approved.
3. Committee update:
 - a. Jane Mead is stepping down from the Committee, effective immediately. Jane had been reporting back to the Friends; Deborah will take that on. The Committee expressed their gratitude for Jane's participation.
 - b. Mern asked Kecia German (former SFL Board member, current B&G Committee member and Friends Board member) if she would be interested in joining the Committee. Kecia declined, noting that she's too busy at this time.
 - c. The Committee will brainstorm finding an additional member, preferably someone with fundraising experience. They brainstormed a list of names. They could also present the request at the Annual Meeting.
4. Plan of work for Saunders House (SH) gutters – Bill Remsen
 - a. Bill and Mern asked contractor George Leavitt for a revised estimate; Bill also asked for the name of the manufacturer of the PVC gutter. Deborah will follow up with him for the revised estimate.
 - b. Dan Ottenheimer found a City drainage map that shows the drains connect to a manhole in the parking lot. It is not 100% certain, however, that this is accurate because the drain was not traced with a camera.
5. Possible use of SH space for library art gallery – Discussion
 - a. There was a brief discussion on the proposed Monell building renovation and what the connector would look like. The connector could double as an entrance to gallery space in the Saunders House; the Committee endorsed this idea unanimously.
6. Feasibility Study update

- a. Library Strategies will be interviewing people as part of the Feasibility Study in late April or May. The Fundraising Committee is compiling a list of people to be interviewed; they are also preparing literature about the Library Building Plan to share with interviewees.
 - b. Mern suggested that the SHSC come up with a brief written statement about plans for the Saunders House to include in the interview process. The Committee agreed that a lot of the writing has been done already – much of it by Pru – and just needs to be compiled into one document. Pru will share what she’s written with the Committee.
7. Possible use of SH as site of Friends’ 2019 book sale – Discussion
- a. The Friends have traditionally used the Friend Room for their annual book sale, but are hoping to use the Byers Davidson Room this year with the thought that it might be less stressful for them and have the added benefit of drawing people to their ongoing sale spot.
 - b. The Committee discussed logistics of the sale as well as the condition of the Saunders House. After discussion, Bill moved that, at the current time, a book sale in Saunders House would counterproductive and potentially damaging to the Saunders House structure; Pru seconded. More discussion ensued. Bill amended his motion to state that the Saunders House not be used for the 2019 Friends’ book sale. The amended motion was seconded and approved.
8. 11:40 Adjourn. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.
9. Next meeting March 18, 2019, 10:30 am

Respectfully submitted, Tracy Bowen

Motions Summary

The Committee approved a motion not to hold the 2019 Friends’ book sale in the Saunders House.

Actions Summary

Deborah will act as liaison between the Friends and the SHSC – a role Jane Mead had been filling.

Deborah will follow up with George Leavitt for the revised estimate for gutter work.

Pru will share her Saunders House writings with the Committee.