

CITY OF GLOUCESTER

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Meeting of June 25, 2019

Members present: P. Fish, K. Pooler, W. Remsen, B. Lambert, C. Gorga, C. Nazarian, D. Porper (Chair),

Also about 8 members of the public including Deborah Kelsey, Simon Paddock, Chair, Library board, Ann Rhineland, Martha Bowen, Catherine Ryan, Mern Sibley, Vice Chair of library board and Chair of Saunders House Committee, and others.

The meeting was called to order by the chairman at 7:05 p.m.

The chairman noted that this meeting was requested by Debora Kelsey, librarian of the Sawyer Free Library, to discuss plans for expansion of the library. The presentation is conceptual and sketches, floor plans, etc. are all subject to change. The chair also noted that the inside plans are not the province of the HDC but since they influence the external design of the building it is useful to know about them.

Matt Oudens, of Oudens Ello Architects is designing the project, and Dore and Whittier will manage the construction of the addition and any modifications to the 1960's Monell building or the present (1913) stacks/connection to the Saunders House. The Saunders House is not part of these considerations.

The goal is to preserve the Monell Building exterior as much as possible but totally renovating the interior. The interior is not within the province of the HDC. The cost of renovation and the cost of a new building are almost the same. The present stacks/connector building which is also part of the present entrance is problematic since a handicapped entrance needs to be provided.

Pru Fish strongly objected to the demolition of the present "stacks" building and the enlarging of the clerestory on the Monell building's roof.

It was noted by Anne Rhineland that the sharing of information by the library and HDC should have begun much sooner.

It will be about 3 years before grant funds are released. The library does not expect to meet with the HDC until then. The chair noted that the commission is always willing to entertain proposals and share concerns anytime the library wishes to do so.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

R. David Porper
Chairman/ secretary pro tem