

Monthly Report: Refreshing Our Facilities Task Force - June 2016

Thank you to the Board for approving the recommendation to engage Robert Black as our consultant for planning the renovations and other work that needs to be done on our building!

We're working to find a date for an initial kickoff meeting with Robert. [He's been engaged with several other projects in the past month, as well as travel.] We anticipate that we'll meet sometime in early July and develop a workplan and establish some deadlines for various parts of our project.

I shared with Robert a host of documents and reports that will form the foundation of our work: our strategic plan, the FOF report, and a variety of documents relating to insulation, excavation, and other issues.* He's reviewed them and reported that he was very grateful for the context they provided. He also noted that we're very far ahead in our thinking about these issues, much more so than other groups he's worked with: a tribute to the many members of our community who led and participated in the Focus on the Future and Facilitating Our Future work, as well as the folks on Buildings and Ground who met with and solicited reports and feedback about various challenges we have with our physical plant and grounds.

Robert asked for a short list of projects that are top-of-mind for us right now. I met with Gina and Anne Dean and we agreed that these are the projects that we're most concerned about:

- Excavation and sidewalk: This needs to be done to ameliorate the moisture problems in the below-ground portions of the building, including the Chapel.
- The Parlors: There are various proposals to reconfigure the Parlors to work better for SE and still be usable for other needs.
- The Chapel: This space is currently a work in progress; the most serious issue is moisture/mold, which needs to be addressed before the space can be set up and more widely used for its intended purposes.
- The roof: We're going to apply for a Preservation Trust of Vermont grant to repair the roof over the office/Parlors, which will help to prevent water from seeping into the building. At this point, we'll need to identify several contractors to examine the roof and provide estimates for the work.

These are the current most-pressing challenges we could identify at the moment. But it's important to note that a key part of Robert's process with us will be a community meeting where a larger group meets to identify needs and work toward developing consensus around priorities and solutions. All this is to say that this isn't a final list, just the beginning of one.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Stoner
16 June 2016