

Report to New York Quarterly Meeting from Co-Clerks of Friends Seminary  
January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The Friends Seminary School Committee wishes to submit a brief update to the members of New York Quarterly Meeting regarding the School's redevelopment project of the townhouses and Hunter Hall.

A report was made to NYQM in October 2014 as part of the School's annual report. (See attachment.) Subsequent to this report, meetings with, and transfer of information to, Trustees continued. The School proceeded with the ambitious timeline ever mindful of Trustees' concern with this timeline but seeking to address all questions as our planning unfolded. In addition, there was an open forum for the Quarter on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 held at 15<sup>th</sup> Street Meetinghouse, and a first meeting on sustainability with Trustees and members of the 15<sup>th</sup> Street Property Committee.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, in a meeting with our architects and consultants, a newly revised cost estimate exceeded the original cost projection and budget, and required all parties to review plans, value engineering, and priorities. We reached a very difficult decision to revise the timeline. Our consultants immediately began a reconsideration of our redevelopment project from cost, efficiency, sustainability and design points of view. Our co-clerks communicated this to Trustees that afternoon and the School Committee sent a minute to Trustees to this effect on December 17<sup>th</sup>. (See attachment.) We offered and met with Trustees on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to review the project status.

The ambitious redevelopment project momentum continues. The School engages in intense consultation with architects, engineers, owner representatives, and construction managers. As of this date we have yet to complete a revised timeline. We have indicated to Trustees the intent to share the revision of the timeline and any revised plans as soon as they become concretized.

Thank you for your interest and patience. We continue to address in our plans particular matters of importance to the Quarter and to the School - sustainability, impact of the visual light, effect of renovation on other users in the complex in addition to many other issues. We welcome and will respond to questions. Please utilize the email [project@friendsseminary.org](mailto:project@friendsseminary.org) for individual questions you may have.

Our vision remains – and our scope of program remains - a new and dynamic educational space for our faculty and our students – enhanced academic classrooms with size and flexibility and technology required for 21st Century collaborative teaching and learning; a program identity for the Upper School; a green roof and greenhouse for a hands-on environmental education program; a community gathering space for approximately 300 people. The plans project the building and alignment of floors for safer, cohesive, and expanded space. They assure all-campus accessibility, including a new elevator. They restore facades and front gardens to historic specifications.

Best wishes,

Friends Seminary School Committee Co-Clerks  
Matthew Annenberg and Elizabeth Enloe

Excerpt of October 2014 Friends Seminary School Committee annual report to NYQM

Enhancing our Facilities for Programmatic Needs - An essential step in Friends Seminary's Future

Friends Seminary is embarked upon a significant architectural redevelopment project for our educational programming. In response to the challenges and objectives identified as we move through our Strategic Planning process, we envision and plan for new and dynamic educational space for our faculty and our students – enhanced academic classrooms with size and flexibility and technology required for 21st Century collaborative teaching and learning; a program identity for the Upper School; a green roof and greenhouse for a hands-on environmental education program; a community gathering space for approximately 300 people. The plans project the building and alignment of floors for safer, cohesive, and expanded space. They assure all-campus accessibility, including a new elevator. They restore facades and front gardens to historic specifications.

The emerging plans and timeframe for the 16th Street school-occupied townhouses and the 1964 building/Hunter Hall are bold and ambitious. They must resolve infinite architectural challenges in the most complex of urban environments. They entail the interests of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, maintaining the school community together in full operation, respecting our neighbors, assuring social and environmental responsibility, and honoring our beloved wider Quaker campus.

Our plans bring together significant preparatory planning - the Kieran Timberlake Planning Document (2004); the Helfand Master Plan Options (2006); consultation regarding zoning, FAR calculations, and Landmarks guidelines; extensive school-wide strategic planning; program planning with faculty; and the advance work of our capital campaign committee.

Friends Seminary appreciates the time given by NYQM Trustees and the 15th Street Property Committee to support a complex plan and timeframe, and to engage in the mutual communication and resolution of interests. Minute For New York Quarterly Meeting Trustees

School Committee Minute to NYQM Trustees 12 17 2014

As of a meeting the afternoon of December 10, 2014, with our School's architects and consultants, there has been a change in the timeline for the School's redevelopment project which extends out the early January 2015 contract signing date. Our architects and consultants recommended more time to consider our redevelopment project from cost, efficiency, sustainability and design points of view, and we agreed. Our co-clerks communicated this to you that afternoon and offered to attend your meeting to discuss the matter in depth. We believe this would still be helpful.

The intense planning momentum continues, and there will be a new timeline developed after the new year. We will remain in close touch and engaged as the planning and timeline develop. We appreciate all the time Trustees have given and continue to give. We realize that the January 5 request caused sacrifice on your part, and for that we are grateful.

We hope this development may assist our mutual interests and relationship, and look forward to continued communication with you.

December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014