

Dear Friends of Egleston,

Sheldon Taylor convened a meeting today bringing together Wright Mitchell of the Georgia Trust, Hank Houser and Kayleigh Sawyer of Houser Walker Architecture and the two of us to meet with members of the Egleston Design Task Force - Meg Fogel, Holly Stevens, Travis Darnell, and Mark Diedrich - as well as Amelia Baker from the Vestry Executive Committee and himself. Martie Zakas, a member of the Vestry in 2025 when the Vestry passed the resolution to include preserving Egleston as a possible option, joined us, as did an intern from Houser Walker.

After Wright's thoughtful opening remarks and an excellent presentation from Hank and Kayleigh on the proof of concept, the group asked a number of good and well-thought-out questions. They appeared to be genuinely engaged and receptive. They understood that Houser Walker was not trying to offer an alternative plan, but to demonstrate that Egleston could be preserved and improved. The committee remains focused on how the building needs to function – but I do think they believe that a renovated Egleston, with the new connector, can be even more accessible, flexible and practical than the current Egleston, while still preserving its character and elegance. They should also have a much better understanding of our purpose and goals - that we are not seeking conflict but are working to save a building, along with the importance and significance of its culture and legacy, and that reusing the building is to us, not only a real possibility but a genuine priority. The reasons for this were discussed as well – embedded history, connection to the cloister and church, the appeal of some of the interior spaces, and environmental benefits. Martie made the important point that she hopes our robust and productive discussion with this group will be shared with the broader group and our parishioners.

We also learned that they have heard from many parishioners about their concern over the process and their love for Egleston – so please encourage your friends who care about Egleston to reach out and make their voices heard, always in a positive and constructive way.

Elizabeth and Sheffield