



Draft design concept of the front facade, 75 Fennell Street (April 2024)



The Skaneateles Library Building Committee, a dedicated team (with a few members missing)

**We are grateful to the following community members for being so generous with their expertise, commitment, and time as members of the building committee:**

Doreen Simmons, Fran McCormack, Scott McClurg, Jill Marshall, Meghann Sandak, Gretchen Messer, Katie Armijo, Andrea Snyder, Martin Harms, Bob Lotkowitz, Nickie Marquis, Susanne Guske, Scott Elia, Mailyn Dimora, Ralph DeMasi, Nickie Marquis, MaryBeth Schwartzwalder, Maura Molnar, Erin McCormack

# A SKANEATELES LIBRARY BUILDING COMMITTEE UPDATE

BY DAVE HEMPSON, LIBRARY BOARD PRESIDENT

A few years ago, the Skaneateles Library Board of Trustees undertook a project to build a new library to meet the ever-expanding needs of our community, a decision based on many hours of analysis and evaluation.

To accomplish this bold undertaking, the library board created a building committee to guide the project, making critical recommendations to the board and providing skillful oversight to ensure the project's success. Alongside board members and librarians, the committee includes community members with expertise in law, architecture, accounting, engineering, design, building trades, landscape design, lighting design, and project management—folks with the

experience and knowhow to oversee such an ambitious project, thoroughly evaluating each step along the way.

For example, we put together a detailed request for proposal (RFP) for the selection of an architectural firm to design the project. The RFP was issued to over 20 firms specializing in libraries. Of these, 13 firms responded, and after an intensive evaluation we invited four firms to present in-person proposals.

Building committee members then visited seven libraries, in Ohio, Vermont, and Massachusetts, designed by the short-listed firms. These visits involved interviewing the staff and board members from each of these libraries for firsthand accounts of their experiences. Each firm was assessed

on the following criteria: overall capability, design, cost management, transparency, problem solving, and collaboration. Following this rigorous process, the building committee recommended that the board hire Oudens Ello Architecture of Boston.

To date, several more milestones have been reached using this exacting methodology, including the selection of a new library site at 75 Fennell Street following a comprehensive environmental analysis, and the hiring of a dependable construction management firm. At each point in the process, the building committee kept one priority above all others: how best to serve our community.

We are grateful for our committee volunteers and the



Draft design concept of the rear exterior, 75 Fennell Street (April 2024)

breadth of experience they bring to our project; they have empowered the library board to tackle major community decisions with the greatest confidence.

Our Board of Trustees is focused on this considerable investment to serve future generations by realizing the library's mission and vision—to promote inclusiveness, a love of learning, and equal access for all patrons by providing resources, enriching programs, sufficient space, and a welcoming environment for all residents.

