



Mayor Wayne Bishop
Harpers Ferry Town Hall
1000 Washington St.
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

August 14, 2017

Dear Mayor Bishop,

This letter outlines the bi-monthly progress for the new Hilltop Hotel and related issues. During this year, we have significantly increased our spending on this project, with the goal of presenting a completely new, mutually-acceptable plan to the town as soon as possible.

1. SWaN has engaged The Getty's Group (premier hotel master plan consultants from Chicago), Ernst and Young (Financial Advisors) and Gensler Architects to collaborate on a new Hilltop Hotel concept plan.
2. SWaN has also met with university professors who are academically researching the history of the hotel.
3. SWaN has interviewed, and requested proposals from, several top potential Hotel Management companies for the hotel, all with the capacity and desire to manage a boutique luxury property. The goal is to have a Letter of Intent negotiated with the Hotel Management company before we further develop the concept design.
4. Exterior stabilization of the Armory Houses continues.
5. To promote safety, SWaN has met with Chief Brown from Harpers Ferry Police Department to discuss and set protocol and hired security guards at the hotel site.

We remain committed to developing a new, financeable, sustainable Hilltop concept plan for application, taking into account feedback we've received over the years, while promoting safety through additional security measures at the Hilltop Hotel site. For multiple reasons, including trying to minimize inconvenience to residents, by reducing the period of active construction and maintaining the Town's flexibility, SWaN does not want to commence full-scale demolition of the current building until a master plan is approved.

We have fenced off and signed the site and have added video cameras. We have also contracted with numerous individuals, including unarmed security guards to patrol the site at night. A number of persons have received warnings. This has been sufficient to stop such behavior with some trespassers but not for others.

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We do not have the power to arrest individuals. We request the Town of Harpers Ferry, as well as the Jefferson County and WV State Police Departments, remain committed to avoiding a dangerous situation by appropriately dealing with any trespassers who cut through or otherwise bypass the security fence to gain access to the site, or return after having been warned. In particular, we are concerned about a juvenile repeat offender who has been caught breaking and entering multiple times as exposed through his own Youtube videos.

Please contact me with any questions regarding the above report.

Sincerely,



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Hilltop Hotel Project Manager

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