

October 16, 2020

To: Town of Rye Select Board
From: Rye Public Library Board of Trustees
Re: Parsonage Property
Cc: Town of Rye Planning Board

The Rye Public Library Board of Trustees met recently regarding the status of the Parsonage property. As you already know, we remain open to continuing discussions with the Select Board and Mr. Philbrick to explore whether we can reach a mutually acceptable arrangement for all parties. We have consistently approached these negotiations in good faith and will continue to do so. The Trustees believe that we remain close to a solution that will benefit all the parties and positively transform Rye's Town Center.

We also believe that the transfer of the entire Parsonage parcel to a private party would have a permanent negative impact on the Rye Public Library, depriving it and its patrons of adequate space essential for future expansion and programming. It also would result in the permanent loss of an incredible opportunity to create a Town Center that will benefit the People of Rye for generations to come.

Partnering with the Select Board on Plan A would effectively eliminate these concerns. The Trustees stand ready to commit our time, energy and resources to that subdivision of the Parsonage property and, knowing that, ask the Select Board to take that course of action.

Again, the Trustees are open and eager to continue to engage with all parties to find a solution to this situation. Should Plan A not occur or be successful, we urge that the Town step back, engage with the citizens of Rye and develop a comprehensive and well-considered plan for the Town Center as contemplated by the actions of the Town Meetings and voters of Rye in 1994, 1995, 1997, and since.

As we approach Rye's 400th Anniversary, we look forward to being an integral part of any conversations to help ensure that any actions taken with respect to the Parsonage parcel are taken in the best interests of all of the people of Rye.

Jeff Ross
Chair
Rye Public Library Board of Trustees