

**Rye Public Library  
Board of Trustees – Minutes  
Public Session  
April 29, 2020  
Virtual**

Present: Trustees Karen Oliver, Victor Azzi, Jeffrey Ross, Christine LeBlond and Michael Moody and Director Andrew Richmond

This special meeting was called to order by the Chair at 10:00 AM on Zoom. The Chair read a statement regarding the Freedom of Information Act. The Pledge of Allegiance was waived.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Subdivision of the Parsonage**

The Board continued its discussion regarding the creation of lot lines between the parsonage and the library pursuant to the passing of Article 8. The Board's objective is to protect the public's interest by preserving public control over the current buffer areas that separate RPL from the parsonage.

Mr. Ross updated the Board regarding his communication with BOS member Keriann Roman, who has asked the Board of Trustees to discuss a couple of different concepts for separating the parsonage from the library.

**Nonpublic Session:**

Mr. Ross moved and Ms. Oliver seconded that the board move into non-public session at 10:30 AM Pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3, II to discuss the Board's position on this matter. The Board was polled and all were in favor.

At 11:30 AM Mr. Moody motioned that the Board come out of executive session, Ms. Oliver seconded. The Board was polled and all were in favor.

Ms. Oliver motioned that the Board take the following position with respect to the lot line:

We, as a Board, have researched and discussed the proposed lot line between the existing Parsonage and the library.

The Board has maintained the landscaped areas between the Parsonage and the Library in excess of twenty years, on land that was acquired by a warrant article in 1995 [for the sole purpose of the expansion of the library.

These vegetated approaches to the library entranceways are memorialized by the plantings, the trees, the shrubs, the fence lines, and the granite fence posts. The current visual border is there by design as shown in the site-plan, landscaping-plan, and construction documents, as part of the construction of the library expansion, which was completed in January 1999. [These plans and documents were created, reviewed, approved, and implemented only after multiple submittals and votes of approval by boards, committees, and voters of Rye.

These landscaped areas are part of the visual, safety and functional definitions of entranceways from Old Parish Road and from Washington Road to the principal entrance of the library.

The Board is willing to consider foregoing ownership of these landscaped strips only if, in exchange, the Library retains control over the use of these critical areas. Based on the history and the function of the library, this is a significant concession for the Board to make, but we are willing to make it as we see it as the best alternative to maintain these strips for the benefit of the Rye Public Library and the town under the circumstances.

Mr. Azzi seconded the motion. The Board was polled and all were in favor.

Mr. Ross will contact Ms. Roman to read the Board's formal statement and will email to her.

**Adjournment:**

Ms. Oliver moved and Mr. Moody seconded that the Board vote to adjourn at 11:45 AM. The Board was polled and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine LeBlond  
Secretary  
May 13, 2020