

**Rye Public Library
Board of Trustees – Minutes
Public Session
August 4, 2020
Virtual**

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

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Jeff Ross, at 1:30 PM on Zoom. Mr. Ross read the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order. The Pledge of Allegiance was waived.

Director's Report:

Director Richmond reported on the phased reopening of the library. Browsing sessions will be offered beginning August 17th. These sessions will be thirty-minute appointments, with one appointment at a time. Foyer service will continue. All staff are healthy and on board with this next phase of reopening.

Director Richmond also noted:

The distribution from the Dan Brown Foundation has been received and a thank you note was sent to the foundation on behalf of the library.

A note of thanks was received from Jim Chase for the gift card honoring his 20th anniversary as custodian.

All staff have signed off on the new Personnel Policy Manual.

Director Richmond is pursuing some pricing on ventilation upgrades to the building. He's still waiting for a quote for oil for the upcoming heating season.

Director Richmond reviewed the July 2020 budget. There were no concerns.

Approval of Minutes:

At 1:55 Michael Moody motioned to approve the amended July 7th meeting minutes. Victor Azzi raised a question about the inclusion of some of the piece he had written on the history of the Parsonage property and the current situation regarding the subdivision. Mr. Moody withdrew his motion to approve the minutes. The Board decided to revisit these minutes at a future meeting.

At 2:00 Mr. Ross moved to approve the July 20th and July 22nd meeting minutes. Mr. Moody seconded. The Board was polled and all were in favor.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Ross noted that the Board has been asked to provide a statement / update on the subdivision of the Parsonage property to the Rye Civic League. He provided the following update:

Dan Philbrick presented the Board of Trustees with five options for purchasing a portion of the Parsonage property. Three of these are not viable options for the library either due to cost or for other reasons. Options 3 and 4 concern the purchase of 1/2 of the Parsonage property and these are the two options the BOT are considering.

It's not clear which of the five options presented would require a special town meeting. We've asked to see the contract between the Board of Selectman and Mr. Philbrick so that we have all the information to help us come to a decision about the best solution. Ms. Oliver filed a Right to Know request to see the contract and original plans for the subdivision on June 12th and was told she'd receive a response by July 15th, and then by July 30th. She has followed up and still hasn't received the information.

Mr. Moody said that in their last meeting with Mr. Philbrick, Town Attorney Mike Donovan said that it's his opinion that the BOS can simply resurrect the contract / deal that Mr. Philbrick had voided.

Mr. Ross stated that the Board of Trustees' position is that we were given, and still hold custody of the property acquired in 1995 for the express purpose of the expansion of the library. Any process to remove our custody should follow the same process by which it was given. The Board believes the BOS has entered into an agreement that removed the property under our custody.

Ms. Oliver stated that the legal opinion we obtained states that by statute, The BOT has rights to the property related to the library. The BOS can't convey clear title to the property without the consent of the library.

Non-public session:

At 2:25 Mr. Azzi moved that the Board go into non-public session according to RSA 91-A:3, II(d) to discuss acquisition of property. Ms. Oliver seconded.

At 4:35 Ms. Oliver moved that we come out of non-public session. Mr. Moody seconded. The Board was polled and all were in favor.

Adjournment:

Ms. Oliver moved and Mr. Moody seconded that the Board vote to adjourn at 4:36 PM. The Board was polled and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine LeBlond
Secretary
August 6, 2020