

## For the Common Good

The Library Common will create an iconic centerpiece for Rye which will act as a magnet to bring people together, a goal that is consistent with the nearly universal request people have made to create a more vibrant Town Center.

After many months of working with Terra Firma, one of New Hampshire's premier landscape architects, and drawing upon feedback from the public, including an Advisory Committee of interested individuals with whom the Library Trustees have been meeting for over 2 years, we have designed a multifunctional space for all. The Common will include a performance structure for Library functions, school activities and town events. There will be new seating areas for smaller events and information gatherings. A larger terrace by the Library entrance will include tables, with umbrellas and seating. Landscaping will be added using native plants and new hardwood trees to provide shade for our patrons and visitor. Finally, a stonewall will run along the front of the property, providing a sound, visual and safety barrier from Washington Road traffic. And there will still be plenty of room for families to put down a blanket for a band concert or for kids to toss a football.

A central element of the Library Common development plan is to request taxpayer support for approximately one-third of the cost of the project. Consequently, the Trustees have moved forward with Warrant Article 9 seeking \$160,000 from taxpayers to assist with implementing the Library Common project. This represents less than one-third of the estimated cost of the project and, e.g., for a home assessed at \$800,000, will result in a **one-time** tax increase of **\$39**. The remainder of the project will be funded by a combination of previous donations to the Library along with new private funds we will raise. We believe that this is a relatively small investment that will bear dividends for generations.

At the Deliberative Session on February 3rd, Warrant Article 09 was amended for technical reasons, using language which might create the impression that the Library is seeking taxpayer support for the full cost of the project - \$500,000. This is absolutely **not** the case. As noted above, only \$160,000 will come from

taxpayers. We fear that this amendment, possibly compounded by some posts on social media, may confuse some voters. However, to be clear, absolutely **no** taxpayer funds beyond the \$160,000 appropriation will ever be requested to complete this project. This is a one-time request.

Please consider supporting Warrant Article 9 to help us build a space that will transform the Rye Town Center. Thank you for your continued support of the Library and of the Library Common!

Rye Public Library  
Board of Trustees



