

**TOWN OF RYE SELECT BOARD  
MEETING  
Wednesday, November 1, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.  
Rye Town Hall**

**Select Board present:** *Chair John Loftus, Vice-Chair Kaitlyn Coffey, Victor Azzi, Lindsay Gray, and Selectmen's Rep Bill Epperson*

**I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Loftus called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Revisit any old business**

Vice-Chair Coffey noted that she met with the Select Board after the last meeting to ask them to reduce the number of members on the Committee, in order to have a quorum at the meetings. She pointed out that there are less people who are available to come. One of the members has resigned from the Committee and that seat was not filled. Also, John Mitchell has asked to become an alternate from a full member. The Committee has been reduced down to six members, plus a representative from the Select Board, so the Committee has a quorum with four members.

At this time, the Committee has four members plus Selectman Epperson. John Mitchell can give up his seat as a full member and reapply as an alternate. This will leave two open seats on the Committee.

**III. Review and approve, meeting minutes for August 2, 2023**  
*Tabled to next meeting*

**IV. Review Monument Proposals**

Vice-Chair Coffey noted there are two proposed monuments that the Historic District Commission is going to be reviewing at its next meeting. One is a monument that the Rye400 would like to put up in the Center of Town to honor all the volunteering and celebrations that were planned for this year. The monument will be a granite rock with bronze plaque and the proposed location is the front lawn of the Church, which is technically town property. (It was noted by Selectman Epperson that the property line for the Church is at the front steps.) Vice-Chair Coffey continued that the HDC will be evaluating the esthetic look of the monument, as well as the proposed location. She commented that since the Committee is working on planning for the Center of Town, she thought it would be important since there is some discussion about possibly moving some monuments. She pointed out that some people have asked if there are

plans for a monument park. She thinks there are some rumors circulating about what is being done, so the Committee should discuss the proposal and know what other groups are planning.

Vice-Chair Coffey commented that the second monument is a proposed monument from a couple in town who would like to put up a monument honoring the founding families of Rye. The proposed location for that monument is in front of the Police Station towards the parking lot. The HDC will be evaluating the esthetic look of that sign, as well as the location. The HDC is still waiting for a full application for that proposal. She pointed out that there's going to be a lot that happens in the Center of Town in the next ten to twelve years.

It was noted by Selectman Epperson that the Rye400 Monument is movable; however, the other proposed monument will be on a concrete base, so it may not be as easy to move. This was brought up to the people proposing the monument and provisions are going to be made because it has to be movable, as it's not certain what's going to happen in town center.

Vice-Chair Coffey pointed out that the Founders' Monument is proposed for an area that could be disturbed by the project for the TAP Grant.

There was some discussion about the two locations for the proposed monuments. It was agreed that the engineering studies and drawings are needed in order to make a decision with regard to location of monuments. Possible future projects relating to the intersection of Washington and Central should also be considered. There was a suggestion of having the monuments fabricated and put into storage, until the TAP Grant project is more defined. The Committee reviewed the founding families' names for the proposed monument (which were derived from the time period of 1623 to 1699).

Chair Loftus spoke about his suggestion of waiting for the TAP Grant drawings from the engineering phase of the project. He also suggested waiting on fabricating the monument, so there are no issues with finding storage for the monument and having to move it twice.

Vice-Chair Coffey explained that there are some concerns from people about the Rye400 Monument going in front of the Church, as it has nothing to do with church. People don't realize the area being proposed is actually town owned land, as it seems to be part of church property.

The Committee reviewed the Town Center map showing the Church property, and other areas in the Center of Town along with the cemetery property, and discussed ideas for possible locations for the Rye400 monument. They also discussed the possibility of moving the World War I Monument to an open area at the cemetery. The Committee will put its ideas in writing to present to the Select Board.

**V. Start draft statement for the Rye TAP Grant Committee stating vision for the Town Center and how it relates to the TAP Project. Review RTCC suggestions to TAP Grant Committee.**

The Committee discussed suggestions for the TAP Grant Committee to consider for the Town Center project, which included ideas for the Rye Junior High to help create a safer student

pickup and drop-off situation at the property. Selectman Epperson agreed to speak with Police Chief Walsh to get his thoughts on the ideas of the Committee, so it can be included in the letter to the TAP Grant Committee for engineering consideration.

Chair Loftus reviewed the sub-committees' tasks:

- **Crosswalks – Victor Azzi, John Mitchell**  
*Pavers or asphalt and other ideas*
- **Benches & Pocket Parks – Lindsay Gray, Kaitlyn Coffey**  
*Samples of park benches*
- **Landscape Plan – Kaitlyn Coffey, John Loftus**  
*PowerPoint – paragraph written for statement*
- **School Traffic – Kaitlyn Coffey, Lindsay Gray**  
*Information is ready for statement*
- **Street Lighting – John Loftus, John Mitchell**  
*Links of street lighting*
- **Street Signs – John Loftus, Kaitlyn Coffey**  
*Photographs and websites*
- **Intersection of Washington and Central – John Loftus, Kaitlyn Coffey, Bill Epperson w/input from DPW Director Jason Rucker**  
*Ideas have been submitted to the TAP Committee document for the engineers*
- **Path behind the Church – Kaitlyn Coffey, Lindsay Gray, John Mitchell**
- **Library – John Loftus, John Mitchell, Victor Azzi**

The Committee will review the information and send in final information to be included in the package for the TAP Grant Committee. The Committee will review the submitted information and start a final draft at the next meeting.

#### **VI. Other Business**

*None*

#### **Adjournment**

**Motion by John Loftus to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Seconded by Lindsay Gray. All in favor.**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F Ledger**