

**RYE TOWN CENTER COMMITTEE
MEETING
Wednesday, December 6, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.
Rye Town Hall**

Present: *Chair John Loftus, Vice-Chair Kaitlyn Coffey, Victor Azzi, Lindsay Gray, and Katherine Brown*

1. Call to Order

Chair Loftus called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Review and approve meeting minutes for 8/2/23 & 11/1/23

- 8/2/23
The following clarification was noted:
- Page 2, under Library relationship with the Town, the last sentence should read:
John Loftus had discussions with Bill Epperson and Jeff Ross about moving the museum building and building a barn (in between the museum and library) that could be used during performances for refreshments, and/ meetings, and/or coffee shop. (This is an idea for the Rye Town Center Committee to consider.)

Motion by Kaitlyn Coffey to approve the minutes of August 2, 2023 with the amendment presented at this meeting. Seconded by John Loftus. Vote: 3-0

- 11/1/23

Motion by Kaitlyn Coffey to approve the minutes of November 1, 2023 as presented. Seconded by John Loftus. Vote: 3-0

3. Revisit any old business

Note: *Please see attached statement by Victor Azzi.*

Motion by John Loftus to attach the statement from Victor Azzi to the minutes of the meeting, regarding the Library and what the plans may be. Seconded by Kaitlyn Coffey. Vote: 4-0

- **Town Monuments**

Motion by John Loftus to create a subcommittee for the town monuments, which may be moved from their current locations. Seconded by Kaitlyn Coffey. Vote 4-0

Vice-Chair Coffey noted that the monuments in the Town Center fall under the HDC purview. At HDC's last meeting, the proposed placement from the applicant was denied by the HDC. The monument for the founding families is going to be before the Select Board at their next meeting because the monument is now going to be gifted to the Town of Rye. The Town of Rye will have to come to the HDC with a new location, which is being proposed on a plot of land in front of Walker Lane. This is a small, town piece of land that a lot of people don't realize is town owned land. It's being proposed that both monuments temporarily go there until the Town Center Committee and HDC can find a better location.

Subcommittee Members: Kaitlyn Coffey, Victor Azzi, Lindsay Gray.

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

The Committee reviewed the draft of suggestions that will be submitted to the TAP Grant Committee for the Town Center project.

Crosswalks – pavers vs. asphalt: Victor Azzi & John Loftus

The subcommittee will work on this once there is some input on the design from the engineering firm.

Benches & Pocket Parks: Kaitlyn Coffey & Lindsay Gray

The subcommittee has picked a bench that seems historically accurate.

Landscape Planning, Sod, Irrigation: Kaitlyn Coffey & John Loftus

The subcommittee will wait to see what the engineers come up with for ideas. The subcommittee will need to consider maintenance. It was suggested by Vice-Chair Coffey to put something together to share with the Select Board with regard to a budget for maintaining the landscaping better in front of the Annex, Parsons Field, and the Public Safety Building. There will be new landscaping from the TAP Grant project; however, the current landscaping also needs to be maintained. Vice-Chair Coffey also spoke about the need for a snowblower to maintain the sidewalk in front of the Public Safety Building. It was agreed that this should be an action item to address with the Select Board.

School Traffic Subcommittee: Kaitlyn Coffey & Lindsay Gray

The subcommittee was encouraged by Chair Loftus to get some letters from the school principal and parents as back up to be given to the engineering firm.

Member Gray noted that the communications they have had with stakeholders seems to be that there are other stakeholders who want to be involved. This be an issue bigger than the Rye Town Center Committee.

Chair Loftus noted that the engineering firm will have a meeting with the Town, so people can express their thoughts at that time.

Vice-Chair Coffey commented that the engineering firm was evaluating the sidewalks; however, they were not evaluating any change in the carpool line. She and Member Gray talked with the principal of the school about a carpool load up lane/lanes. The principal liked the idea and is aware that dismissal is chaotic. She doesn't think the engineers are evaluating this part of the Town Center, which should have some focus and time.

Chair Loftus pointed out that the engineering firm is cognizant of the situation and their job is to find a solution. Whatever information that the Committee can provide the engineering firm ahead of time will help.

Member Gray noted that this has been identified as a bigger problem beyond what will be presented to the engineering firm. She asked if the Committee has the authority to go the Select Board about this issue if it has been identified as being a big problem. She pointed out this is a safety issue that needs to be addressed by the Town. She reiterated that this has gone beyond the Town Center Committee.

Chair Loftus suggested that these statements be put into the suggestion list. At the same time, the Committee can send a letter to the Select Board. The Committee can also let people know there's going to be a town meeting. The engineering firm will be preparing a preliminary design and then they will want to hear thoughts from the Town. The subcommittee agreed to get these concerns in writing.

Note: Input from Police Chief Walsh has been received, which will be put with the document.

Street Lighting: *John Loftus*

Chair Loftus noted that he found lights from a company in Pennsylvania that have been manufacturing street lights for over one hundred years. Vice-Chair Coffey commented that the lantern style light fixture samples that have been shown are historically appropriate. She pointed out that the lights will have to be presented to the HDC as well; however, she feels this piece of the project will be in good hands to be sure it's in harmony with the District.

Chair Loftus pointed out this is an item that may need more money because the original budget only had seven lanterns. He pointed out that the company that he's proposing brings the price down quite a bit. The original budget was about \$8,000 to \$9,000 per lantern, but that could easily be brought down to \$5,500.

Signage: *Kaitlyn Coffey & John Loftus*

Vice-Chair Coffey noted that she has identified and photographed all the signs in the District. This is an item that could be presented in a PowerPoint, with proposed changes, to the HDC or the Select Board.

Intersection of Washington and Central: *John Loftus, Kaitlyn Coffey, Bill Epperson w/input from DPW Director Jason Rucker*

It was noted that the engineering firm has all information that was discussed, including: PowerPoint, photographs, and videos of school arrival/dismissal. (It should be noted that faces of any students in the video were blurred out.) The engineering firm has reviewed the videos, as they have commented on them a few times.

Path behind the Church: *Kaitlyn Coffey & Lindsay Gray*

No further updates at this time. This is outside of the TAP Grant, but still a purview of the Town Center Committee.

Library: *John Loftus & Victor Azzi*

No further discussion at this time.

- Vice-Chair Coffey agreed to work on finalizing the document for submission. The document will be in final form at the next meeting, so a vote can be taken to approve and send. The Committee will receive a copy to review before the meeting.
- Next meeting scheduled for January 3, 2024

Adjournment

Motion by John Loftus to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. Seconded by Lindsay Gray. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F Ledger

JANICE - ADD TO DECEMBER 6th
MEETING MINUTES. STATEMENT BY
VICTOR AZZ1.

RTCC

JAY

1/2

with regard to the RTCC minutes of the August 02, 2023 mtg:

"As I have stated several times before, I take strong exception to the statement made in the minutes of the RTCC meeting of August 02, 2023. The position of the Board of Trustees of the RPL is that in the planning of the present and future of the land of the Library Common and related land obtained in 1995 for future needs of RPL expansion, nowhere is there any expressed thinking or planning "about moving the museum building and building a barn (in between the museum and Library) that could be used for performances, meetings, and a coffee shop." The Master Plan for the development of the RPL indicates that the future will include further improvements in the development of the Library Common including a performance ~~platform~~ platform (of some sort) and a modest expansion of the library building. Any future addition to the library building, per se, will include additional restrooms and other amenities that will better serve the growing



2/2

needs of the use of the RPL patrons both within the building and its ~~related~~ related programmable spaces in the Library Common adjoining the building.

WDAZ

Sept	2023
Oct	2023
Nov	2023