

**RYE TOWN CENTER COMMITTEE
MEETING
Wednesday, January 3, 2024 - 5:30 p.m.
Rye Town Hall**

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

I. Call to Order

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

II. Review and approve meeting minutes for 12/6/23

The following clarification was noted:

- Page 1, under the motion by Kaitlyn Coffey it should say: **Note:** *Please see #3 below.*

Motion by John Loftus to amend and approve the minutes of December 06, 2023 as discussed. Seconded by Kaitlyn Coffey. Vote: 4-0

III. Business

Chair Loftus announced that the Select Board is responsible for the negotiations on pricing for the project and will be meeting in closed session with the engineering firm to do so. He is not sure if this meeting has happened yet.

Member Coffey expressed concern that by disbanding the TAP Task Force Committee they will be losing their connectivity to the project.

Chair Loftus suggested that he write a communication to the Select Board with regard to allowing the Rye Town Center Committee to review and discuss the engineer's recommendations.

Motion by John Loftus to have Kaitlyn Coffey write a letter to the Select Board requesting that they allow the Rye Town Center Committee to review and discuss the engineer's recommendation. Seconded by Lindsay Gray. Vote: 4-0

Member Coffey will send out the letter to the Committee for review prior to Chair Loftus taking it to the Select Board.

IV. Continue working on the document for Rye TAP

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. No future update at this time.

Recommendation from Member Azzi: If pavers are used for the crosswalks, use only real pavers. For example: if you want granite; use granite. If you want brick; use brick. If you want wood, use wood. Do not use painted material, like painted or stamped concrete or asphalt or lesser material.

It was decided that the paragraph will read: Crosswalks will be reviewed after the initial design plans are provided by the consulting firms. The RTCC recommends painting the asphalt to delineate the crosswalks.

Motion by John Loftus. Seconded by Katilyn Coffey. Vote 4-0.

Benches & Pocket Parks: Kaitlyn Coffey & Lindsay Gray

It was decided that the paragraph should include - Possibility to expand the Pocket Park area outlined in red, to the west, by removing some of the asphalt on Central Road to narrow the road and add more green space. Ideas to include in Town Center and in the new proposed pocket park areas additional benches and where it makes sense for purposeful resting places.

Motion by John Loftus. Seconded by Katilyn Coffey. Vote 4-0.

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

Irrigation add: Concerns about future availability of water in Rye

Motion by John Loftus. Seconded by Katilyn Coffey. Vote 4-0.

Landscape Maintenance – RTCC recommends subbing out maintenance of landscaping with lawn mowing, shrub maintenance, watering, and fertilizing.

Motion by John Loftus. Seconded by Lindsay Gray. Vote 3-0-1 Member Azzi Abstained.

School Traffic Subcommittee: Kaitlyn Coffey & Lindsay Gray

Chair Loftus read a statement sharing observations and concerns from stake holders:

- Stake Holders
 - Chief Kevin Walsh
 - School Principal
 - School Board
 - Rye District Facilities Manager
 - Director of Facilities SAU 50
 - School Administration
 - Residents on Wallis and Washington Road

Concerns range from the uptake of parents dropping and picking up their children; less use of the buses; causing increased parking and traffic on Wallis, Washington, and Old Parish Road; children darting out from between parked cars to cross the road, and lack of bike lines.

Add to Stake holders:

- Elementary School Principal
- Bus Company Representative

Motion by John Loftus. Seconded by Katilyn Coffey. Vote 4-0.

One recommendation was to make a circular driveway around the back of the school. This idea was denied because there is not enough room at the back of the school. It was decided to scratch the last paragraph regarding the circular driveway and just add “There was future discussion regarding the possibility of creating a queue on school property.

Add: RTCC recommends having the engineering firm do some monitoring of the traffic to establish the average number of cars that queue from drop off and pick up.

Motion by John Loftus. Seconded by Katilyn Coffey. Vote 4-0.

Street Lighting: John Loftus

There is a list of websites that have been listed for interested parties to look at companies that specialize in historical street light fixtures. The recommended company has been in business for over 100 years and has done a lot of work in major cities, such as Washington DC.

Signage: Kaitlyn Coffey & John Loftus

Add: Directory Signage

Motion by John Loftus. Seconded by Katilyn Coffey. Vote 4-0.

Intersection of Washington and Central: John Loftus, Kaitlyn Coffey

Changes and additions were:

RCC = Rye Conservation Commission

Changing the word compound to complex

Bike line from 4 to 5 feet

The concrete island could be block faced with cobblestones verses concrete with or without a planter in the middle.

Motion by John Loftus. Seconded by Katilyn Coffey. Vote 4-0.

Path behind the Church: Kaitlyn Coffey & Lindsay Gray

No further discussion at this time.

Library: John Loftus & Victor Azzi

Chair Loftus recommended that the Rye Town Center Committee meet with the Rye Library Trustees in a joint meeting. He or Victor Azzi will reach out to the Chair to arrange for this meeting.

V. Other Business – None

Adjournment

Motion by John Loftus to adjourn at 6:57 p.m. Seconded by Lindsay Gray. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger