

Dear Wayne,

I cannot make the Board meeting and thought I would send you my thoughts on what I believe is a legal issue that I have not seen discussed regarding the Library Project.

The Scarsdale Library, unlike any public library I know, was not built in a commercial area but in a beautiful, quiescent, primarily residential neighborhood. Although I don't know what specific laws apply, I am sure they would prohibit the Village from building a Starbucks or a McDonald's there.

The Library Project is no different. It would mean an enormously larger building and one its proponents say would be a "community center" with programs day and night and all the traffic and confusion that would produce. It would diminish the value of the beautiful houses on neighboring properties -- far more than the comparatively small property issues raised a year or two ago when the house for sick girls was proposed.

The Library Project is more commercial than the sick-- girl project. Business people produce these programs and others promote and benefit -- including a bigger library staff -- from them. All this activity would change the character of this neighborhood -- permanently. I do not believe the Trustees have the authority to do that. Certainly not without a Village--wide vote before any consideration is given to a bond issue.

Best regards,

Andy Hartzell