

Donna Conkling

From: Jeannie <baubion_mackler@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 1:12 PM
To: Clerk's Department
Subject: Letter to Mayor and Board of Trustees re: Library Renovation Plans

Dear Mayor and Trustees,

We have been reflecting on the Scarsdale Public Library major renovation plans.

As Mayor Jon Mark told us, every Scarsdale resident should make their voices heard.

We have lived in this Village for many, many decades and we have regularly used our public library.

The staff is helpful, well informed and cordial. The programs are excellent for adults and children.

The library building is ideally located, nestled in a park-like setting in a most peaceful and beautiful open space.

This Fall we were taken by total surprise when the Library Board presented its renovation plans.

Over the years, we have visited and used our library several times a week. Until the Fall of 2015 we were unaware of

the renovation plans. We had never seen a library survey on the circulation desk, yet we are Friends of the Library.

We have attended 2 renovation plans presentations by Ms. Simon and Ms Bermel in the Scott Room.

We also attended the meeting of the BOT finance committee where the Long-Term Outstanding Debts were presented.

Our response to the library plans as they have been presented to the public follows:

- 1- \$19.5 to \$20.5 million is excessive and extravagant.
- 2- Our Village has many financial priorities ahead of this extensive library renovation and we must not lose sight of our priorities.
- 3- If, indeed, the BOT were to go ahead and accept this extravagant and extensive Library Board renovation plans, it

would set a bad precedent for the School Board who is also planning to spend many tax dollars on the schools in the very near future.

- 4- Our Village roads are in very poor condition and need many miles of resurfacing. (As of today, we have

spent several thousand dollars on:

2 damaged tires and rims on Bernard's Lexus, and a complete wheel alignment and 2 new front tires on Jeannie's Volvo.)

5- Closing our library for 2 years and moving a skeleton staff to the Supply Field building would be a hardship and unreasonable for us all.

6- The President of the Library Board, Ms. Simon, went overboard and exaggerated, when she described our present library building as:

"tired, worn-down, not up-to-date and aesthetically unpleasant..."

In our discussion with fellow Scarsdale residents, no one agrees with Ms. Simon's description.

Most everyone in our Village "loves our public library" as is.

7- Taking down the 1998 book mezzanine stacks, would be wasting \$1million dollars. To bring in a view of the grounds and more available light, the library architects

could open the rear wall with multiple windows facing the pond.

8- As for doubling the meeting room space parallel to the Scott Room, we believe that it would disfigure the entrance to our beautiful library. It would necessitate

cutting down 50 year old trees and cutting off the beautiful present entrance plaza.

9- Yes, both restrooms need a complete upgrading. Yes, they are very worn-out.

10- As for a dedicated space for teenagers, the architects should look to expand the library footprints in the rear right corner.

11- The Children's corner is lovely, private and very functional. We attend weekly story readings with our 2 grandsons and love the staff and its space.

12- The Reference Room was updated, painted and has new furniture, as of 7 or 8 years ago. Leave it alone,

13- Yes, some of the windows need to be replaced and the roof needs to be fixed for leaks. The AC was just replaced a year ago.

Our beautiful Scarsdale Library is used on a daily basis by many residents, but also by many non-residents who chose to use this idyllic building. No parking meters,

no traffic and a welcoming pond with public benches for a stroll.

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to express our views and opinions.

Cordially yours,

Bernard and Jeannie Mackler
5 Lenox Plac.