

Donna Conkling

From: Bal1998 <bal1998@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2016 8:20 AM
To: Clerk's Department
Subject: To the Mayor and Trustees..about the Library Proposal

Dear Mayor Mark and Village Trustees..

The old joke when building or renovating something used to be that it would "take twice as long and cost three times as much" as estimated.

Except that it was not always a joke.

Regarding the Library Renovation Proposal..
to which I am Opposed..some thoughts.

There are three excellent Village amenities that resulted from Village and /or Village and Private partnerships..

They include the Scarsdale Pool Complex..

the Kids Base Little School building and programs..

and the Scarsdale Volunteer Ambulance Corps Building and services.

Their New Buildings/Programs did not exist before the combined Village and private efforts..and they have enhanced our lives enormously.

There was an absolute Need for those projects.

The Library Proposal does not meet that standard of need.

The Library already exists and serves our community well.. as it has for over 60 years..

During Hurricane Sandy..when our Village lost power and my home was without heat for 9 days..I spent part of each day in the Library...It was a wonderful refuge and I was grateful for it.

It is a place of tranquillity and study..with everything that such a place should have..with books

and other materials always available..
a warm and inviting atmosphere..light and airy...
comfortable seating...a private conference room..
a large room for performances and programs..
a children's area...

and it is never too crowded..although the parking lot is sometimes almost full.

It is exactly what a Scarsdale Village Library should be..

I believe..as I think many village residents would believe..
if they knew about the Proposed 18 Million Dollar renovation project...that the Necessary Repairs should be done to keep the Library as it is...or to improve its current function.

To close the Library for 2 years is unthinkable.

What a terrible idea..aside from the cost of doing so..
and considering having a small temporary facility in its place.
The possibilities for disaster abound.

A Renovated Library is Not Needed.

Doing the repairs that Are Needed and keeping our Library as lovely as it now is..in its beautiful current setting..allowing it to continue to serve the people of Scarsdale as it now does..
is the best possible course of action..in my view.

I would hate for it to become even more of a magnet for people who live outside of Scarsdale..if it were to have amenities like a Cafe..or a teen gathering capacity...

Even now... it does attract numbers of people from other towns who often spend a good part of their day there.
I know it is part of the Westchester Library system..and that is permitted..
but I do not think that our Village funds should be used to create unnecessary additional enhancements that might encourage many others to use our Library facilities.

The other old joke is "If it is Not Broke..Don't Fix It".
Except that it also is not really a joke.

It involves opening a can of worms.

Already the Boring Costs are almost double the estimate.
A small sign of things to come ..if we continue on
this unnecessary and very expensive path.

Whose idea was this anyway?

Surely not the idea of the thousands of residents who
use and love the Library just as it is.

I am one of them.

Thanks very much for listening.

Susan Levine