

July 20, 2017

To: Chester Board of Finance

Regarding: North Quarter Park Library

Please read at the meeting and include in the minutes.

I do not think it is financial responsibly to move ahead with this project for many reasons. I do not think a library of this magnitude is necessary for our population of 4,245 residents, or can be sustained by Chester's taxpayers, or utilized enough by Chester's population to warrant it. Recently, the library cancelled programs such as movie night because of no attendance, and let go of the person hired to read to the kids because of low attendance. I do not think we need 8,000 square foot, multimillion dollar library for 1041 cardholders especially when we have 7 libraries within 2-8 miles away.

We still do not what know the precise cost of this building is with bonding included, or what the yearly upkeep and maintenance fees are in addition to the cost for staff, furniture, computers, new collections, insurance, electricity, heat, AC, snow removal, etc. How can the taxpayers vote on something we don't know the cost of?

I think there has been a lot of conflicting, inaccurate and misinformation given to the public about why other plans to renovate the existing building will not work, yet if someone has the time and desire to review the other plans and the minutes they will find, in short, that there are no hazardous materials preventing a renovation and the church is fine with continuing the lease of the land. (These are a few points we have been told as to why a renovation at the current location will fail.) Just because these other plans were not approved by the past BOS does not make them invalid, and does not mean they cannot be made to work. They should be revisited.

This is why I do not want to see this go to a referendum at this time, because the public has been given inaccurate information, and the way the BOS is framing the referendum question, in my opinion, makes it seem like the current plan is the only option, and if we the taxpayers don't take it, there is nothing else that can be done and the library will stay as it is. This is not true.

I ask the BOF to NOT move forward on this plan. Thank you.

Respectfully,  
Caryn Davis  
Leif Nilsson