

9.10.10

97 Pascal Avenue  
Rockport, ME 04856  
September 2, 2010

To: Ad Hoc Committee

In re: Former Rockport Elementary School Property

We the undersigned represent 3 current generations of Rockporters, many generations of the Ingraham family here before us, and many combined years of service in town government. Rockport has a rich history; people with great foresight have made Rockport what it is today. We have enjoyed the benefit of such careful planning and want to provide the same foresight for future generations.

We strongly feel that the entire Rockport Elementary School parcel should remain in possession of the Town. We believe this property has much greater worth to Rockport than can be determined through seeking its market value. Future potential use to the Town is important, not current market value. Once gone, it can never be replaced. As you will recall, the Town has evidenced considerable wisdom and foresight in recent years regarding land, including the Harbor Park purchase and the purchase of the former Hall property for the town office site. Though both were relatively costly purchases, the investment resulted in the Town obtaining premier, useable and highly visible sites.

One possible use for the RES site that our family would fully support would be to build a community center on the property. The Rockport Public Library is a wonderful, highly utilized resource, but it is overcrowded inside and out. Its already strained parking situation recently has been exacerbated by the downtown revitalization. We believe there should be a long-range plan to develop a library complex on the RES site using the land and any sections of the building deemed suitable to retain, and then design a new library to be built in front of any remaining sections. The proceeds from the sale of the current library could be the seed money for such a project with a capital campaign designed to raise necessary additional funds. This could be done over several years with the eventual goal of having the entire library on the RES site. There would then be room for a library large enough to hold an expanded collection, meeting and conference rooms, ample parking, a central location, and ball fields available for community use.

We believe this is another pivotal opportunity to set the direction for Rockport's future. We urge you to use the same foresight as previous leaders to ensure Rockport's continued vibrancy and uniqueness. We urge you to retain the RES parcel.

Sincerely,  
Maynard and Joyce Ingraham  
Dwight and Lynn Johnson  
Peter I. Johnson  
Emily I. Johnson

