



WESTCHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
A LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTER

December 5, 2019

Rye City Council
1051 Boston Post Road
Rye, NY 10580

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

The Westchester County Historical Society (WCHS) has the most comprehensive collection of local history and genealogy in Westchester. Our mission is to make the rich history of our county more accessible and to actively advocate for the preservation of our architectural heritage. For this reason, I am writing you about our concerns for the proposed plans for the Nursery Field adjacent to the Knapp House.

The Knapp House is a frame structure erected in 1670 by one of the first three original settlers in Rye, Timothy Knapp. Only five families have owned the house over the years, and it is unique as it is considered to be the oldest residential property in Westchester County. In 1982, the Knapp House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Nursery Field is contiguous to and in the view shed of the Knapp House. There needs to be careful consideration of negative impacts to the adjacent historic site. In addition, proper archeological investigations need to be performed before there is substantial disturbance of site. It should be determine whether there are any significant historical findings which could be destroyed through excavations.

The open spaces around historic sites are critical to their preservation and interpretation. We do not advocate for no change, but rather the careful management of change.

Sincerely yours,

Susanne Pandich
Executive Director