

D'Andrea, Carolyn E.

From: Abigail Gerdts <1120booth@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 04, 2020 2:44 PM
To: publichearingcomments
Subject: The Osborn's petition for a zoning change

To: Rye City Council

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I appreciate this opportunity to express my support for our Osborn community's request to be allowed the flexibility in use of its land resources to maintain and advance the environment I and my fellow residents so value. My husband and I moved from Manhattan to The Osborn--that is, became Rye residents--in April 2018. Sadly, he was an early victim of Covid-19, otherwise this letter would be signed by us both. Nothing could demonstrate The Osborn's exceptional qualities better than my experience of the past six months adjusting to personal solitude in the midst of a world in need of isolation. In the immediate aftermath of my husband's death I had the immediate support of Osborn staff in handling all the practical matters I could not handle myself from quarantine. Where their efficiency might be expected, their tact reflected a personal concern, characteristic of the relationship of residents and Osborn administration. The friends we made here, and many residents with whom I am only slightly acquainted, have gone out of their way to provide the sense of human companionship to help compensate for my loss. That is the nature of The Osborn: awareness of, and concern for, neighbors.

Those of us who live here are well aware of, and applaud, the relationship The Osborn--as an institution and its residents--enjoys with the Rye community. Among the demonstrations of the interaction of Rye and Osborn residents is sharing programs and events presented on our campus, and that beautiful campus, itself. In terms of a "bottom line" of the relationship, there is the substantial contribution The Osborn makes to the City's tax base. But above that line is more than 110 years of being good neighbors. I am one of many who hope the City will recognize that The Osborn's need to make changes to meet the changing character in the aging population. The Osborn's present residents--and certainly those of the near future--are, and will, be more physically able and active; more intellectually curious and acute; and thus, have greater expectations for their late life environment. To remain the premier senior residence facility it is, The Osborn needs to make measured adjustments and improvements in the facility and its capacity for service. Again, I am one of many who hopes the Rye City Council will agree that what is good for The Osborn is good for Rye.

Abigail Booth Gerdts

The Osborn
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