Dear Members of the Village Council, Friends, Foundation, Donors, and Library Staff:

We have been notified that the Ridgewood Public Library did not receive the grant that we applied for through the NJ Library Construction Bond Act program. Although we are deeply disappointed, we remain committed to our plans to renovate the library. The library has not been renovated since 1998 and requires major capital improvements, including a new roof and HVAC system and substantial interior updates to continue to deliver the services that the Ridgewood community has come to expect and rely on.

When the NJ Library Construction Bond Act was announced, everyone involved thought that it was an opportunity that could not be ignored. We recognized all along that our chances of receiving a grant were uncertain, so we have been developing a “Plan B” that is based on the design submitted for the grant, but is more modest, both in scope and cost. We also have an opportunity to update and improve on our original design to account for technological advances and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We look forward to sharing our new plans with you, and we hope we can count on the enthusiastic support of the entire community, including the Village Council, the Friends of the Library, the Ridgewood Library Foundation, the Library Staff and the residents of Ridgewood. We are certain that if we work together our “Reimagined” library will serve generations of Ridgewood residents for years to come.

Sincerely,

Nancy Greene, Director and the Board of Trustees

Ridgewood Public Library