

# Rye Civic League- Special Edition

## Supporting Information for the Town Hall Survey

"Informing citizens, enhancing direct democracy and supporting the will of the voters"

RCL, PO Box 971, Rye, NH 03870 [RyeCivicLeague.org](http://RyeCivicLeague.org)

[Please share with your Rye friends & neighbors](#)

[Citizens' Handbook \(click here\)](#)

*The Rye Civic League was re-formed to promote public awareness by informing residents about the town's business and its responsiveness to its citizens. The organization also offers townspeople an opportunity to bring issues forward for discussion and unbiased resolution. Its primary purpose is to help residents of Rye, NH to act as informed citizens and thereby improve and develop our community.*

2015 Citizens Handbook is now updated. [Click Here](#)

Please see the new Opinion Section and the "Public Forum Discussion" section.

### Town Reference Documents on the Town Web Site:

Town of Rye Master Plan (click here)  
2014 FEMA maps: Click Here

[Rye Rec Master Plan \(Click Here\)](#)

[RCL Budget Presentation Click Here](#)

Rye Trust Fund Summary: [Click Here](#)

[Rye Library Strategic Plan: Click Here](#)

### Other Helpful Links:

[Live Free or Die Alliance](#)

### Overview Support Information:

To help residents consider and answer the questions on the town hall survey, as well as write in further comments, the RCL is providing this supporting information. Please complete the surveys you received in the mail as soon as possible and additional surveys are available at Town Hall (open Saturday mornings). No deadline was provided but the information will be tabulated as soon as possible.

### There are three key questions the town needs to discuss:

1. What is the amount of space needed to accommodate town requirements for office space and public meetings?
2. To what extent can existing/new facilities satisfy that need and what would each of them cost? [Click Here](#) for town owned properties.
  - a. Renovating existing Town Hall
  - b. Recreation area buildings (Rye Rec Master Plan [Click Here](#))
  - c. Public Safety Building
  - d. Former Police Station
  - e. Transfer Station (Recycling)
  - f. New Town Hall building
  - g. Existing Rye Congregational Church buildings or other existing space
3. In light of what the town decides on how to best address space needs/utilization, what should be the long term roll of the Town Hall building?

### How we got to this point:

**2006:** Town completes the Public Safety Building, that included potential future space above the apparatus bay. No plans on what to do with the Former Police Station building.

**2011:** Town completed a structural evaluation of the Town Hall building [Click Here](#)

**2011:** Town approves \$40,000 to evaluate the feasibility of continuing to utilize the existing town hall, evaluation of the space requirements considering 21st century technologies. BOS Public Hearing Meeting Minutes, [click here](#). AG Report [Click Here](#) AG Presentation [Click Here](#)

**2011:** AG Architects presents space needs projections (approximately 15,000 sq. ft) along with proposed designs. [Click Here](#) for the Needs Assessment.

**2012:** AG Architects estimates construction cost of \$1.15 to \$1.37 million to build out the space above the Public Safety Building apparatus bay, providing 6259 sq. ft. for town office use. Cost includes separate unsecured elevator access to new space. AG did not consider possible swapping of space (i.e. moving Fire Dept. above apparatus bay) to eliminate the cost of the second elevator. [Click Here](#) for presentation

**2012:** \$135,000 Warrant Article to move forward with the AG Architect design for 15,000 sq. ft. is rejected by voters by over 60% of voters. Petitioned warrant article to reassess the space needs and look at options is approved (over 80%). BOS forms the Space Needs Committee (SNC).

**2012:** Space Needs Committee recommends 10,500 sq. ft (+/- 10%) need. This number includes space for Rye Recreation at Town Hall and estimated project costs at \$2.1 million. [Click Here](#) for final report. Information on use of the upstairs room, [click here](#)

**2013:** Town approve \$60,000 for sample town hall designs and to evaluate the long term space needs for Town Government. Town also evaluates options for records storage.

**2014:** Town approves \$250,000 to complete the design work.

**2015:** Town defeats \$4.1 million warrant article for 12,600 square feet using 6,000 square feet in the current town hall and the balance from a new adjacent addition. See Facebook page [Click Here](#)

**2015:** BOS forms a new Town Hall Committee to evaluate options and make recommendations.

### **Rye Civic League Comments on the Survey:**

The yellow signs show that the town is cable of more aggressively communicating to residents. We hope that this will continue through the Deliberative Meeting, the Town Election, and with future Master Plan updates

The 2015 Town Hall Committee's charge includes "**4) and any other feasible alternatives**" and the most striking alternative omissions from this survey are:

**A)** The unused space at the Safety Building is not mentioned. Utilizing the unused space in the Safety building and additional space if current police and fire rooms are moved above the apparatus bay.

**B)** Other existing space, such as the Congregational Church adjacent to the Town Hall is not considered.

### **Rye Civic League Question by Question Support:**

Q1 & 2: Please consider how online access may impact space needs.

Q4: This question can help inform how many voters understand what is available and what is needed.

Q5: How important questions.

a) Keeping the Town Hall in the center of town: Our Master Plan promotes a Town Center

b) Preserving historical aspects of Town Hall. See links for Q8

c) ADA is a requirement not something we can have an opinion on

d) Note, Rye Recreation is now at Rye Recreation modular buildings.

e) Note, RES only cancels school during a Presidential election

f) Currently only one room is available, other meetings get held at the Library or RJH. The large Public Safety Building Meeting room is hardly used.

g) Storage Study, is available, but could not be found online

h) If you have never been upstairs in the Town Hall, please poke around up there first.

i) Geothermal heating/cooling system is currently installed in Town Hall

j) See timeline above

Q6: Town Hall Options - Utilizing the Public Safety Building or other

existing buildings are not presented as options

Q7: What would you support: Utilizing the Safety Building or other existing buildings are not included.

Q8: Preserving Town Hall Building. Inclusion of this question can be viewed as misleading, so please refer to this additional information.

[Click Here](#) for Seven to Save application

[Click Here](#) to see 2006 Rye Reflections article

Q11 and Q12: Please write in Other if that is your reason

Q16: This number does not include the \$350K spent to date.

Q17: There is no less than \$2 million option

Q18: Note, RES has been closed for Presidential Elections

Q19: Other could include Rye Congregational Church, a future expanded Rye Recreational building, etc...

Demographics:

You do not have to answer questions that you find intrusive. Consider whether your responses may permit you to be uniquely identified and whether you care about this.

### **About the Rye Civic League and the Civic News**

The Rye Civic League (founded in 1968 by Frances Holway, Joan LaFrance and Marjorie Miller, disbanded in 1992 and revived in 2009) is a voluntary association that educates and motivates people to act as informed citizens of Rye.

To receive Town News via bcc go to the [Rye Civic League Website](#) and enter your name and e-mail.

All articles are written by the RCL editors. Questions or comments feel free to contact the RCL at [civicnews@ryecivicleague.org](mailto:civicnews@ryecivicleague.org)

### **An Invitation to membership in the Rye Civic League**

WE ARE ALL CONCERNED CITIZENS. We all share the goal of making our town the best it can be. We want our kids to have a great education. We want our community to be safe, beautiful and thriving. We want to balance our budget and to see our tax dollars spent wisely. We benefit from an open town government, and we depend on it to keep things running smoothly. In turn, we owe it to our government and our fellow citizens to be informed and to get involved for the benefit of our community. This is why we are inviting you to participate in the Rye Civic League (RCL). This is your opportunity to engage in a positive way, to do your part as a Rye resident, and to keep our town acting for the good of us all.

[Click Here](#) to make an online payment.

[Click Here](#) to read the invitation and complete the membership form

### **Contact Info**

Rye Civic League: [civicnews@ryecivicleague.org](mailto:civicnews@ryecivicleague.org)

### **Forward email**



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