

# Rye Civic News

from the Rye Civic League

## July 2014

"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.*

### Next RCL Meeting:

**July 24th 6:30 pm RPL**

(meetings are the 4th  
Thursday of the month)

2014 Citizens Handbook is  
now updated. [Click Here](#)

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

### Upcoming Town Meetings and Events

**July 1:** Town Hall  
Committee 6:30 pm

**July 2nd:** Zoning Board of  
Adjustment. 7:00 pm

**July 3rd:** Heritage  
Commission 6:30 pm

**July 7th:** Recreation  
Commission 6:00 pm

**July 8th:** Sewer  
Commission 8:00 am

**July 8th:** Planning Board  
7:00 pm.

**July 10th:** CIP 6:30 pm

**July 14th:** Board of  
Selectmen 6:30 pm

**July 15th:** Town Hall  
Committee 8:00 am

### General Announcements:

**Rye Recreation Summer Programs:** [Click Here](#)

**Rye Senior Serve:** 2013-2014 Active, Alive and over 55 [Click Here](#)

**Rye Open Positions and Alternates:** [Click Here](#)

**Rye History Museum:** New Exhibit: [Click Here](#)

**Rye History Trolley Tour:** July 5th 10am: [Click Here](#)

**Parson's Creek Watershed Workshop:** July 15th 3pm [Click Here](#)

**New FEMA Maps are available:** [Click Here](#)

**Public Forum Discussion Topics:** [Click Here](#)

**Rye Farmer's Market Starts June 18th:** [Click Here](#)

### Climate Change Workshops: June 16th

Town Page with reference documents: [Click Here](#)

New FEMA maps: [Click Here](#)

June 12th Coastal Adaptation Workshop: [Click Here](#)

May 5th: Information [Click Here](#) Group Flow Chart [Click Here](#)

RCL Open Discussion: [Click Here](#) for online discussion

Town Summary of April 1 Workshop results; [Click Here](#)

May 5th town summary: Not available

June 16th Meeting Notes and documents: Not available

[Click Here](#) for workshop overview and timeline

[Click Here](#) for informational handouts from April 1st workshop

[Click Here](#) for presentation from Prof. Cameron Wake

**Summary:** Please see page 16 of the June 2014 Rye Newsletter for a good summary (sorry we can't find these online).

### Board of Selectmen Meeting June 23rd:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Summary: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: not available yet

**1.** Recycling Committee introduces proposal for \$2.00 per bag "pay-as-you-throw" program. A number of residents question the proposal. [More Detail](#)

See Portsmouth Herald article about Eliot award [Click Here](#)

**2.** Selectmen approve acceptance by the Town of a donated conservation easement on a portion of the Retirement Community Development ("RCD") to be constructed on a portion of the former Rand Lumber property. The Conservation Commission will be conducting a public hearing before its final approval. Sale of the larger back portion of the land will be considered later. [More Detail](#)

**3.** Selectmen grant approval for yoga lessons to be conducted on the beach. Applicant states that there will be no music. [More Detail](#)

**4.** Fire Chief is moving forward with immediate hiring of a

**July 17th:** Conservation Commission 7:00 pm

**July 23rd:** School Board Retreat RJH 8am to 4pm

**July 28th:** Board of Selectmen 6:30 pm

## Town Reference Documents on the Town Web Site:

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) [Click Here](#) This plan is updated annually and is a great way to see what the Town is planning for future capital expenditures

Town of Rye Master Plan ([click here](#))

2014 FEMA maps: [Click Here](#)

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

### Town Budgets

2014 Town Budget [Click Here](#).

2014 Budget Executive Summary [Click Here](#)

**RCL Budget Presentation** [Click Here](#)

**Rye Water District Budget:** [Click Here](#).

**Rye Beach Budget:** [Click Here](#).

**Jenness Beach Budget:** [Click Here](#)

### School Budget:

Here is a link to the full 2014-2015 School Budget.

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

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

## Other Helpful Links:

Live Free or Die Alliance

firefighter/paramedic to replace a firefighter who is retiring. [More Detail](#)

## **Board of Selectmen Meeting June 9th:**

Video Recording [Click Here](#):

RCL Meeting Summary: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Regionalization to be considered for fire services. [More Detail](#)
2. Permit for Zumba lessons on the beach denied. [More Detail](#)
3. Selectmen deny lot un-merger request from the Tuttlers. [More Detail](#)
4. Selectmen vote to recommend a fixed bridge connecting Rye and New Castle, citing a \$10 million savings. [More Detail](#)  
[Click Here](#) for Rye Selectmen letter  
[Click Here](#) to see the New Castle Selectmen rebuttal
5. There were several letters that were not read at the meeting, nor were the authors invited to speak about them. The letters are attached to the Town Meeting Minutes. [Click Here](#)

## **Town Hall Committee meeting June 17th:**

Final SMP Report: [Click Here](#)

[Click Here](#) for the Facebook page

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Discussion page for Town Hall: [Click Here](#)

1. Current Geothermal Heating System, installed two years ago, provides heating and cooling to the existing building with great efficiency as 60% of energy is provided by a source other than oil. David Kyle to investigate what the current system could provide to a new building.
2. Committee is proposing a two story new building with no basement (Vote 7-2). Several members were interested in designing a building with a basement and two above ground floors, with a smaller footprint. SMP's Jason LaCombe stated that the cost for these two design alternatives was very close.
3. ***The existing plan moving forward is a new 6,000 two story building with an underground connector to the existing Town Hall. The existing Town Hall will be renovated. The entire Town Hall complex is estimated to be 12,000 square feet, with a preliminary budget of \$3,800,000.***
4. In the public discussion portion of the meeting, two Rye citizens stated that they thought the building was too expensive.
5. The next meeting is July 29, 2014 at 6:30 PM.

## **School Board June 5th Meeting:**

Learn more about the Rye Schools: [Click Here](#)

School Board July 5th meeting minutes (draft): [Click Here](#)

RCL Video of June 5th School Board: [Click Here](#) [Time Stamp Summary](#)

2014 School Board Retreat is July 23rd from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the RJH and is a public meeting.

School Budget: [Click Here](#)

RCL Budget Analysis: [Click Here](#)

1. Welcome to Sal Petralia, new superintendent starting on July 1.
2. Touching letter from Elie Wiesel to Katie Jarvis's 8th grade classes in response to letters they wrote to him.
3. Police Chief Walsh spoke about a possible new security system at RJH. Some discussion followed. (4:00)
4. RES Student gave report about installing solar panels at RES. (24:00) Scott Marion proposed investigating alternative green energy sources for RES and RJH. Unanimously approved.
5. RES Vertical Team Progress on Literacy Assessment. A new plan with 4 assessments is recommended going forward

6. Powerschool (new on-line grading and database program) implementation progressing.
7. Mary Lyons congratulated on her new position as interim principal at Portsmouth High School.
8. Dr. Cushing shared his reflections on his time as superintendent, and read 3 letters from recipients of the Marguerite Kelly scholarship and how Rye teachers affected their education and growth.
9. 6 half-days approved for the 2014-15 school year. (64:00)

### **Planning Board meeting: June 10th:**

Learn more about the Planning Board: [Click Here](#)

New FEMA maps have been posted: [Click Here](#)

Town Planning Board meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL June 22 Technical Review Meeting Video: [Click Here](#)

1. 81 West Rd (8:00) - Create new lot on land that is partly in North Hampton; Discussion involved safety issues on where driveway is placed on West Rd, wetland and other issues  
Summation of issues and conditions (31:00)  
Application approved by all with conditions (43:00)
2. 1064 Washington Rd (46:00) - Create driveway to yet to be approved accessory apartment over a garage  
After considerable discussion and the PB leaning toward rejection, applicant offered option to withdraw and return later with new plan (80:00). Applicant withdraws application
3. Webster at Rye, Washington Rd (83:00) - Conceptual consultation session. CEO Tom Argue presentation  
Session ends and CEO Argue says formal application will be provided in July for August Planning Board meeting (136:00) See below section)
4. Sub committee reports (143:00)

### **Technical Review Meeting June 22nd:**

RCL Video [Click Here](#)

1. 511 Wallis Rd (Rand Lumber - Sea Glass Lane) John O'Neal, representing the owner, describes the requested changes and the marketing program to date. Most buyers who have made non-binding reservations want the larger units (0:50).
2. Gary of Better Homes and Gardens, the realtor responsible for marketing the units, describes the reservation process. There are 19 non-binding reservations for the 20 units, of which 12 are from Rye residents. The marketing slowed down once all 12 of the larger units had been reserved and customers had to be told that Planning Board approval would be needed for their unit reservations to be converted to reservations for one of the larger units (cape vs. ranch). Only three customers want the smaller ranch units. (4:53)
3. Members Ray Tweedie and Jeff Quinn have questions and suggestions regarding the data that will need to be provided (12:29).
4. The case is approved for consideration at the July 8 Planning Board meeting. (25:45).

### **Planning Board July 8th Agenda:**

Next Planning Board Meeting: [Click Here](#) for Agenda

1. 511 Wallis Rd (RCD at Rand Lumber Site) Allowing all units to be 2,160 sq ft. and to also allow for finished basements and 3 season sun rooms and porches (covered)
2. 26 Odiome Drive: Exterior changes to condo unit
3. 901 Ocean Blvd: Seafarer Condominiums: Roof work

4. 60 Elwyn Rd. Lot subdivision
5. 561 South Rd. Conceptual Consultation for Major 5 lot subdivision

### **Zoning Board of Adjustment : June 4th:**

Learn more about the Zoning Board: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting notes with time stamps: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

1. 1296 Ocean Blvd. Vote: All in favor  
Raze non-conforming building and construct new house.  
Issues: setbacks, building height, lot coverage
2. 385 Sagamore Rd. Vote: all in favor  
Install generator. Issue - setback
3. 24 Robin Rd. Vote: all opposed  
Subdivide one non-conforming lot into two non-conforming lots.  
Issues: lot size, lot depth, set back
4. 243 Central Rd. (Sargent's service station and building next door)  
Raze existing buildings and construct a new one.  
Issues: building and parking lots within 75' buffer, parking lot size, set back  
Vote: all in favor
5. 250 Locke Rd.  
Raze non-conforming building and construct new one.  
Issues: 6' from wetlands. and septic system 40' from wetlands.  
Continued to July meeting due to lateness of the hour.

### **Zoning Board of Adjustment : July 2nd**

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. 250 Locke Rd. Remove building. New building 6 ft. from wetlands and septic 40 ft. from wetlands
2. 1064 Washington Rd. Special exception for a preexisting apartment.
3. 31 Myrica Av. New construction rear set back is variance
4. 3 Love Lane: Administrative Appeal.
5. 3 Love Lane: Construction business is being run as a home operation
6. 26 Odiome Drive: Deck expansion
7. 25 Appledore Ave: New Building set back variance
8. 16 Arbor Rd.: Two lot subdivision
9. 25 Mountain View Terrace: New Shed setback
10. 5 Grove Rd.: Accessory Apartment
11. 60 Elywn Rd.: Lot subdivision

### **Conservation Commission Meeting June 19th:**

Learn more about the Conservation Commission: [Click Here](#)

Current Town Meeting Minutes: Not Available

RCL Video of the meeting: [Click Here](#) (See the elapsed times in the video, to skip forward to these specific discussions)

1. 71 W. Atlantic Ave. (after the fact wetlands permit) (2:39)
2. 103 Locke Rd. (29:13)
3. 44 Pioneer Rd. (illegal dock) (34:10)
4. 65 Wallis Rd. (36:50)
5. 60 Elwyn Rd. (two house subdivision with variance needed for building in wetlands buffer). Site walk scheduled for June 30 at 6:30 p.m. (38:20)
6. Discussion of large solar array on Star Island (60:30)
7. Discussion of Wallis Rd. culvert (62:03)
8. Correspondence from DRED re wood chips deposited at Odiome State Park (64:54)
9. Ban on target practice on Conservation lands adopted (70:26)
10. Bills (78:12)

11. Discussion of cell tower. (81:39)

12. Former Rand Lumber parcel. Easement on 11 acres of RCD land is being donated. The first "A to P" Selectmen requirements documentation has been assembled. (84:00)

### **Demolition Review Committee last mtg: May 9th**

Demolition Review Procedure: [Click Here](#) to review

April 3rd and 21st Meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

1. 206 Washington Rd. The barn was to be converted to home use for an expanding family, but would have been inefficient and cost prohibitive. The owners were most cooperative to allow photographing and salvage of any historic details which would not be incorporated into their own reconstruction. The permit was unanimously granted.

### **Heritage Commission Meeting June 5th:**

Learn more about the Heritage Commission: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

### **Rye Energy Committee Meeting May 6th**

Learn More about the Energy Committee: [Click Here](#)

Rye Energy Committee has an opening. [Click Here](#) to contact REC.

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

June Committee meeting was to be at the Town Hall Committee meeting, but when this was not held, an alternate meeting could not be held in June.

### **Historic District Commission May 6th**

Learn more about the Historic District: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Reviewed plans for renovation to the Oceanic Hotel on Star Island. Particularly, two new skylights will be added to the dining room to brighten the interior and the current skylight will be modified. Safety precautions on the roof were agreed upon and were approved by those members present.

### **Beach Commission May 29th:**

Learn more about the Beach Commission: [Click Here](#)

NOTE: The BOS has suspended the Beach Commission and appointed a "Beach Committee" with a final report due December 16th.

Those residents with "Beach Concerns" should be attending these committee meetings. (Note: RCL could use some help summarizing these meetings)

### **Mosquito Commission Meeting May 20th**

Learn more about the Mosquito Commission: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Nothing posted

### **Recreation Commission Meeting May 5th:**

Learn more about Rye Recreation: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Nothing posted since April

[Click Here](#) to see the Rye Recreation Master Plan

### **Capital Improvement Plan Committee June 12th and 26th:**

Learn more about the Capital Improvement Plan: [Click Here](#)

To see the current CIP [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: April 10th [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: April 24th [Click Here](#)

**Rye Opinions:**

The Rye Civic League Website posts opinions and discussions for Rye. These opinions reflect the views of residents, **NOT** the Rye Civic League. The purpose is to help residents share their views and to have an online discussion between residents. We encourage you to share your opinions in the online discussions or sending an e-mail to the RCL [e-mail](#)

**Recent posted opinions:**

- Is 511 Wallis Rd. Sea Glass Lane growing beyond the intent of an RCD? [Click Here](#)
- Will the current size of the Town Hall pass in 2015? [Click Here](#)

**Rye Public Forum Discussion Topics:**

Once the RCL monthly meeting concludes, there is a public forum discussion about some of current topics in town. All are welcome to join this discussion and introduce town related topics. Topics from the June 26th discussion were: [Click Here](#)

- Pay-as-you-throw (paying for trash bags)
- Size of Town Hall proposal
- 511 Wallis Rd - RCD Sea Glass Lane
- 561 South Rd. Development

Topics for the July 24th discussion may include the above and other topics residents raise for discussion.

**Town Budgets**

The Town Executive Summary is also very helpful. [Click Here](#)  
Neither the Town nor the Budget Committee provide the "story" about the increasing budgets, so the RCL has created this overview: [Click Here](#)  
As of December 2013 the town has **\$3,389,508** in Trust Funds, Capital Reserves. [Click Here](#) for the town document.  
The November 14, 2013 RCL notes provide the most detail to the different Town budget discussions. [Click Here](#) for the .pdf of the RCL notes

**Other Town Activity****How Good is our Library?**

2012 Our Library has done a great job quantifying the huge value we get from our annual investment. [Click Here to see the details](#)  
Have you seen the Library Strategic Plan: [Click Here](#)  
Rye Library Events Page [Click Here](#)

**Rye Town Handbook from the Rye Civic League:**

NOTE: 2014 Update will soon be available at the Library, the Hungry Horse and other locations. All sections are also posted on the Rye Civic League website

The Rye Citizens' Handbook has been created by the Rye Civic League ("RCL") to provide a consolidated resource to assist citizens in interacting with the various employees, board and commission members of the Town. It contains a description of each of the positions and groups, together with the contact information for each. It provides a road map to assist citizens in interacting with each function. The document is fluid. The intention of the RCL is to revise the Handbook at least annually in response to changes in staff, board and committee memberships, and the laws.

Special thanks to **Mae Bradshaw** who created and maintains the handbook.

[Click Here for a PDF version of the handbook](#)

## **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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