

Rye Civic News May 2016

from the Rye Civic League

"Informing citizens, enhancing direct democracy and supporting the will of the voters"
RCL, PO Box 971, Rye, NH 03870 RyeCivicLeague.org

Please share with your Rye friends & neighbors

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

Next RCL Meeting:

TBD- 6:30 pm Location
Rye Public Library

RCL Annual Meeting:

June 21st (proposed)

Meetings

(at Town Hall unless indicated)

May 2nd: Conservation
Site Walk 6:00 pm

May 2nd: Recreation
Facilities Space Needs
Assessment 6:00 pm

May 2nd: Parsonage Apts.
LRP 6:00 pm RPL

May 3rd: Recreation
Commission 6:00 pm

May 4th: Rye Water District
meeting 9:00 am Rye
Water District Office.

May 4th: Conservation
Commission Site Walk 6:00
pm

May 4th: Zoning Board of
Adjustment 7:00 pm

May 9th: Board of
Selectmen 6:30 pm

May 10th: Sewer
Commission 8:00 am

May 10th: Planning Board
7:00 pm

May 12th: Master Plan
Public Meeting - Climate
Change Chapter 6:30 pm.

May 12th: Library Trustee
Meeting.

May 17th: Mosquito Control
Commission 5:00 pm

May 18th: School Board

General Announcements:

1. **Annual Bike Rodeo:** May 7th 1:00 pm Rye Congregational Church
2. **Master Plan Chapter Discussion:** May 12th 6:30 pm RJH [Click Here](#)
3. **Coastal Risk and Hazard Commission:** [Click Here](#) for public comment [Click Here](#) for draft report
4. **Cancer Cluster February 2nd Report:** [Click Here](#) Other links [Click Here](#) Community Group facebook page: [Click Here](#)
5. **Where Portsmouth outperforms Rye.** [Click Here](#)
6. **Lifeguards are needed:** [e-mail](#)
7. **Solar 101 Workshop** May 24th 6:30 pm Durham Oyster River High Sponsored by Rye Energy [More Information](#) [Other Info](#)
8. **Rye Recreation Senior Program (updated):** 2015-2016 Active, Alive and over 55 [Click Here](#)
9. **Rye Recreation Summer Programs Registration:** [Click here](#)
- 10 **Assessment Data:** Online views of town lots [Click Here](#)
- 11 **GIS Mapping** Software Presentation Video: [Click Here](#)
12. **Discussion of issues facing Rye.** [Click Here](#)
13. **Regionalization:** Portsmouth Herald story on N. Hampton joining regionalization discussions [Click Here](#)

Board of Selectmen Meeting April 25th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town Meeting minutes: Not available

1. Agreement was reached with Seacoast Velokids to have them use trails near the Rye Airfield, rather than the Town Forest, for children's biking events. [More Detail](#)
2. After vigorous discussion over the advisability of allowing surfing camps on July Fourth, Summer Sessions was granted a beach permit. Permits were also issued to Portsmouth Paddle Co. and Namaste Yoga. [More Detail](#)
3. The mowing contract for the Recreation Area was awarded to Seaside Landscaping (associated with Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment Committee and ZBA member Shawn Crapo) based on price and a 3-2 vote of the Recreation Commission to award the contract to them. [More Detail](#)
4. Alan Bucklin has resigned from the Recycling Center. [More Detail](#)
5. The Town Clerk/Tax Collector is retiring at the end of April, but the Selectmen are recommending that she remain for 1-2 days per week to handle oversight and training. The Selectmen made various requests relating to the transition. [More Detail](#)
6. Portsmouth is planning to give away its fire boat due to high operating costs. The boat sees use to the Isles of Shoals for police and ambulance needs. Portsmouth may reconsider if New Castle, Rye and other seacoast communities chip in. A figure of \$10,000 per community has been mentioned. [More Detail](#)

Board of Selectmen Meeting April 11th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. The application by Seacoast Velokids to use the Town Forest for

RJH

May 19th: Conservation Commission 7:00 pm

May 23rd: 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](#))

2015 Beach Report [Click Here](#)

GIS Parcel Data: [Click Here](#)

Transfer Station and Recycling Flyer: [Click Here](#).

Town Budgets

Budget Analysis: [Click Here](#)

Town Budget Worksheet: [Click Here](#).

MS-7 Reporting document: [Click Here](#)

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

Rye Beach Budget: [Click Here](#). RBVD Treasurer's Report. [Click Here](#)

Jenness Beach Budget: [Click Here](#)

School Budget:

Here is a link to the Proposed 2016-2017 School Budget.

Rye Trust Fund

bicycling events was tabled after Conservation Commission opposition.

[More Detail](#)

2. Rye's representative to the Coastal Risk and Hazard Commission reported that estimates for sea level rise by 2100 range from 1.6 to 6.6 feet.

[More Detail](#)

3. An "august" group of residents was appointed to the Parsonage Apartments Long-range Planning Committee. [More Detail](#)

4. Beach permit applications from Get Out There Fitness, Mission of Portsmouth, Cinnamon Rainbows and Jenness Beach Pizza were approved. Applications from Summer Sessions, the Shack Surf Shop and Magnolia Barrett will be considered at the next meeting. [More Detail](#)

5. Neither the Selectmen nor the Police Chief had any objection to the liquor license application for Johnny O's Oyster Bar. That led to heated discussion as to why the license for the Rye General Store had been denied under circumstances that certain residents felt were similar. [More Detail](#)

6. No parking zones may be established this summer on Perkins Rd. and Parsons Rd. in preparation for implementation of parking meters on Ocean Blvd. in 2017. [More Detail](#)

Parson's Creek Pollution Committee April 27th:

Organized Additional Information: [Click Here](#)

Information from the Planning Department: [Click Here](#)

Committee Charge from the BOS: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: Not Available

1. New monitoring of pollution hot spots will begin in May. DNA testing will be done in twelve locations to determine whether bacterial sources are human or animal.

2. In addition to grants paying for FB Environmental, Beach Permit revenues of \$30,000 will be available.

3. The pump out ordinance applicable to the Parsons Creek Watershed takes effect June 1. After then, three days notice of pump out to the Town will be required in case the Town decides to view the pump out.

4. The town is gaining more data on possible sources of the problem.

5. Selectman Musselman acknowledged that a \$5-7 million sewer bond to solve the problem is likely not politically viable.

6. New FEMA designations may prohibit new septic systems along the Wallis Sands dune.

7. Some commercial businesses along Ocean Blvd. have holding tanks or water usage at the limit of what their septic systems can support.

8. The level of proof required to gain legal access to locations of failed septic systems was discussed. The Town Attorney may need to look into further.

Rye Districts Information:

[Click Here](#) for information on Rye Districts

Rye Water April 6th meeting:

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Draft Meeting Minutes: Note available Agenda [Click Here](#)

May 4th meeting agenda not yet posted.

1. See end of video with visitor from Aquarion requesting interconnection with Rye.

Rye Beach Village District prct 002 Annual Meeting

RBVD Budget: [Click Here](#)

RBVD Treasurer's Report: [Click Here](#)

RBVD Annual Meeting video: [Click Here](#)

[Click Here](#) to see an approximate map of the RBVD

Summary:
[Click Here](#)

Rye Library Strategic Plan: [Click Here](#)
 How good is our Library
[Click Here](#)

Rye Police Homepage
[Click Here](#)
 Facebook: [Click Here](#)

Rye Beach Committee
 Facebook Page [Click Here](#)

Other Helpful Links:

[Live Free or Die Alliance](#)

1. Spending warrant articles were adopted in record time with everything passing.
2. No mention of one year position on the warrant, so Frank Drake is apparently staying as a Commissioner.
3. Most of the meeting was devoted to keeping the District active and heading off any threat of eliminating it

Jenness Beach Village District Annual Meeting prct 003

District Meeting: April 9th 5 pm Town Hall

JBVD Budget: [Click Here](#)

[Click Here](#) to see an approximate map of JBVD

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

1. William Christo was elected Commissioner for a 3 year term to fill a vacancy. All other officers were re elected.
2. District expense budget of \$99,925, primarily for hydrant service and street light electric supply, passed.
3. After a presentation [Click Here](#) by the Streetlight Committee and Michele Sopher, Sopher Energy on a plan and budget to replace up to 69 streetlights (primarily inefficient mercury type) with LED streetlights having a payback of 2.5-3 years, a warrant article for the project in the amount of \$30,000 was approved. Warrant Article is in addition to District expense budget.
4. A committee was formed to engage Aquarion Water, supplier of District drinking and hydrant water, to learn about the water system serving the District, quality, infrastructure, and well-head protection.

School Board April 13th Meeting:

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

Draft School Board Meeting Minutes: Not posted

RCL Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

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

Superintendent's Bulletin: March [Click Here](#)

[Click Here](#) to see RCL Budget overview

1. Update on RJH Principal search
2. Kindergarten enrollment is at 27, discussion of structure
3. RJH Model 2 with project based learning and no social studies teacher (3 teachers per grade). Note that the school is projecting a \$350K to \$400K budget surplus for this school year.
4. RJH Intramural and intra-school sports discussed for RJH

Planning Board meeting: April 12th:

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

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

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. (taken out of order) - amendment to 48 Dow Lane Condo Association: create limited common area. Accept jurisdiction approved 6-0
2. 1313 Ocean Blvd. - demo two buildings and replace with one multi-family dwelling accept jurisdiction - approved 6-0
3. 60 Wentworth Rd. - WBTSCC - addition to clubhouse to create new ballroom with 150 seats accept jurisdiction - condition approval - 6-0
4. Resident's complaints about poor communication from the Planning Board, specifically for the Master Plan and the lack of site plan review for Outdoor Pride were not discussed and "placed on file".

April 7th, 21st & 27th LRP Meeting (Master Plan)

Public Meeting - May 12th 6 :30pm RJH - **Nothing posted yet for review**

[Click Here](#) for the current Master Plan

Draft Town Meeting April 7th Minutes: No quorum so canceled

Draft Town Meeting April 21st Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town Meeting April 27th Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video April 7th: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video April 21st: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video April 27th: [Click Here](#)

1. Incorporating comments from the LRP Committee, Julie Labranche, from RPC, has been editing the "Coastal Hazards and Adaptation" draft chapter to be presented at the Forum on May 12th.
2. LRP Committee has been preparing talking points to be developed by the public during the Forum on May 12th: vision statements; municipal /regional preparedness; and community resilience and adaptation.
3. Member Mel Low has expressed concerns that the draft chapter should be stronger and is not going far enough. He is hoping that the Forum will allow for more input to lead to more concrete actions.
4. Julie Labranche has been adding "recommendations" to the draft, which have been reviewed by the members of the LRP Committee.
5. Planning and Zoning Administrator, Kim Reed, is planning to post the draft on the Town website prior to the Forum.

Planning Board May 10th Agenda:

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. Jeness Beach Beachhouse - work by the State
2. Marjorie Way stone wall

Zoning Board of Adjustment: April 6th:

Recorded Video [Click Here](#)

Draft Town meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Members present: Weathersby, Dibble, Crapo, Driscoll, Mikolaites

1. Old Business item taken out of order- 30 Surf Ln. Petition of rehearing and reconsideration of relief granted to Surf Lane Realty 4 voted for Denial, 1 abstained
2. 2250 Ocean Blvd. - demo of non conforming building and build new structure; other issues: rear setback, height and bldg. coverage approved 5-0
3. 426 Wallis Rd - demo and rebuild garage - con'd to May meeting
4. 30 La Mer Dr. - accessory Apartment issues: wetland buffer; Board voted to continue the application until DES and Rye Fire approval are received
5. 161 Harbor Rd. - Adm. appeal to Bldg. Insp. letter - approved issues - demo non conforming bldg., build new structure, other issues - setback, terrain alteration, parking, tidal buffer approved 4-1
6. 1323 Ocean Blvd. - demo shed and replace with new shed and generator other issues - wetland buffer and setback approved 5-0
7. 17 Perkins Rd. - setback issues on existing building approved 5-0

other applications continued to May and June meetings

Zoning Board of Adjustment: May 4th Agenda:

See Concord Monitor Story about "In-law apartments" [Click Here](#)
[Click Here](#) for agenda Note, agenda was posted outside Town Hall days before it was posted online.

1. 1601 Ocean Blvd. Variance for deck
2. 287 Wallis Rd. Variance for garage
3. 355 Central Rd.(Selectman Mill's house): Shed is in the set backs and no variance was obtained
4. 1367 Ocean Blvd. variances for construction for property that has existing variances
5. 108 Straws Point. Variances for increasing bulk of second building
6. 710 Lang Rd. variances to expand a non-conforming structure
7. 15 Richard Rd. Continued to May 18th
8. 0 Pollock Drive Continued to May 18th
9. 1146 Ocean Blvd. Continued to June 1st meeting

Budget Committee April 26th:Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Not available yet

1. The Budget Committee conducted its quarterly review of the Town and School expenditures vs. budget.
2. School District will probably have a \$350,000 to \$400,000 surplus for fiscal 2015-2016 ending June 30, 2016 due to lower heating costs than planned and unfilled teaching positions.
3. The Town appears to be largely on track after the first quarter of 2016.
4. A proposed new meeting policy generated debate over the appropriate point for public input.

Conservation Commission April 21st MeetingLearn more about the Conservation Commission: [Click Here](#)Conservation Land Maps: [Click Here](#)Town Forest map: [Click Here](#)Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Draft Meeting minutes: Not available

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

1. Abeniqui Country Club plans to remove a brick drainage pipe and restore a stream as part of a course improvement with a foot bridge to span. Site walk scheduled
2. 15 Richards Ave review of small additions to a house in the wetland buffer. Site walk scheduled
3. 11F Street. Seawall reconstruction. Site walk scheduled.
4. Continued effort to control invasive phragmites on a Rockingham County Conservation District easement, the Brindamour property, by cutting and placing trees to increase water depth. Small disturbance in wetlands requested
5. Discussion of a more formal monitoring program for conservation lands and recently completed projects where Commission had involvement. Purchase of signs to delineate conservation lands.

Trail Management Sub-Committee April 4th & 25th:Recorded Video April 5th: [Click Here](#)Recorded Video April 25th: [Click Here](#)**Beach Committee Last Meeting December 16th:**Facebook Page [Click Here](#)Last Video Recording: [Click Here](#)2015 Beach Report was presented to the BOS. [Click Here](#) for the reportBeach Parking Report: [Click Here](#)

Selectmen disbanded the Beach Commission (voter supported) and now this group has not met since December, leaving the Selectmen in control of the beach.

Recreation Commission April 11th:Learn more about Rye Recreation: [Click Here](#)[Click Here](#) to see the Rye Recreation Master Plan

Recorded Video: Nothing available

Draft Town Meeting Minutes: Not available

Summer program Registrations: [Click Here](#)Active, Alive and over 55 Programs: [Click Here](#)**Recreation Space Needs Committee April 4th**Updated Charge: [Click Here](#) to review[Click Here](#) for survey to print When complete [e-mail](#) or mail inRecorded Video: [Click Here](#)Draft Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Update

1. There is a survey about the programs Recreation currently provides and future needs. [Click Here](#) for for that Survey.
2. The town's lack of a Master Facilities Plan is impacting this working group. Security issues have made utilizing the schools more complex.
3. The After School program was discussed. *Editor's note: For families where all adults work full time, this program provides huge value.*
4. The need for public outreach and discussions are needed.

Heritage Commission Meeting April 7th

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Progress is being made on securing grant money for maintenance on the cupola.
2. Commission continues to pursue grant opportunities to offset costs for maintaining properties in the Historic District.

Rye Energy Committee Meeting: April 5th:

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

Draft Town Meeting Minutes: Not posted

1. May 24th Solar 101 Workshop 6:30 pm Oyster River High School [Click Here](#) for more information

Rye Recycling Education Committee April 19th

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: Not available

1. Portsmouth recycling rates much better than Rye. [Click Here](#)
2. Additional members are needed.
3. Work on redoing and updating the recycling brochures for the transfer station. □
4. Talk with teachers at both schools about increasing the recycling effort at the schools

Historic District Commission April 6th Meeting

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Reviewed the Star Island project for egress stair replacement. Changes were approved.
2. Reviewed 1984 Historic District Plan to see if changes or updates are required.

Library Board of Trustees April 14th

Trustee Home Page: [Click Here](#)

Library Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

1. Flipster magazine service added
2. New stacking chairs arriving, fence maintenance progressing

Mosquito Commission Meeting April 19th

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

Town Meeting Minutes: January 26th are the only meeting minutes available. [Click Here](#)

Video of meeting: [Click Here](#)

Sewer Commission Meeting April 12th:

Draft Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

No Video Recording as meetings are at the Rye Beach Post Office building.

1. Flow report from Church Rd. station was reviewed.
2. Abatement checks and process was discussed
3. Sewer for lot on 30 Sea Road back lot discussed

Current Topics & When and Where can you help Rye?:

When a topic is being discussed at Town meetings, let us know if you would like to be notified, so you could attend so that the town can benefit from your inputs, guidance or support. The RCL will need to develop an automated system so please [e-mail](#) the RCL with topic(s) on which you may wish to be notified.

In order to promote dialog, the Civic News has an "Opinion" section where views can be expressed. Please send us any other suggestions to help you stay educated, informed and engaged.

- a) Cancer Cluster: [Click Here](#) for more information
- b) Parson's Creek Pollution: Will a Selectmen's Committee fix this problem? [Click Here](#)
- c) What should the town do with the Parsonage Rental units?
- c) 2015 Beach Report [Click Here](#) What do you think?
- d) Other Discussion topics: [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:

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 discussed:

1. ZBA May 6 agenda not online at time of meeting. Major items on agenda include Crown Colony, apparently owned by Dan Philbrick, and Selectman Mills' garage and shed that were apparently built within the setback. Led to discussion of the last two Rye Appraisers not lasting a year.
2. Beach issues and permits for business
3. Rye School budget \$400K surplus and elimination of teachers
4. Lack of discussion about Town Hall next steps

Other Town Activity

How Good is our Library?

2015 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: 2015 Update are 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

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 Steven Borne - President

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.

Rye Civic League, PO Box 971, Rye, NH 03870

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