

# Rye Civic News November 2015

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](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:

November day to be announced -see website 6:30 pm Location Rye Public Library

NEW 2015 Citizens Handbook is now updated. [Click Here](#) Hard copies available at RPL, Hungry Horse, Town Hall...

## Upcoming Town Meetings and Events

(at Town Hall unless indicated)

November 2nd:  
Recreation Commission 6 pm

November 3rd: Rye Energy 6:30pm RPL

November 4th: Town Hall Committee 6:30 pm RJH

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

November 5th: Rules and Regulations 7:30am

November 5th: Heritage Commission 6:30 pm

November 9th: Board of Selectmen 6:30 pm

November 10th: Sewer Commission 8:00am RBVD

November 10th: Mosquito Control Commission 5:00 pm

November 10th: Planning

## Not coming to Rye Civic League Meetings?:

If you think the Civic News is informative, you should join the public forum discussions that occur following the monthly Rye Civic League meeting.  
- At RCL meetings we discuss RCL business and tasks required to produce the Civic News. We can use more help summarizing meetings and editing, so there are many opportunities to contribute.

## General Announcements:

Rye has top NH Library Director: [Click Here](#)

Made in NH Artist Rye Open Houses November 7th: [Click Here](#)

Tides to Storms Vulnerability Report: [Click Here](#)

UNH Town Hall Survey Report: [Click Here](#)

CIP (\$1,269,971 in 2016 projects) Approved [Click Here](#)

RCL 2015 Citizen's Handbook: [Click Here](#) Hard copies have been distributed around town (Town Hall, Library, RJH, Hungry Horse....)

Parson's Creek Pollution: 104 is the NH high limit for bacteria [click here](#) to see how high the pollution is. April status report [Click Here](#)

Food Composting at the Transfer Station Open to Everyone: [Click Here](#) and see video from RJH student [Click Here](#)

Rye Recreation Senior Program (updated): 2015-2016 Active, Alive and over 55 [Click Here](#)

Assessment Data: Online views of town lots [Click Here](#)

GIS Mapping Software Presentation Video: [Click Here](#)

## Appointed and Alternate Positions:

[Click Here](#) for all positions (not updated from last Civic News)

### 2015 Vacancies:

- Historic District Committee
- Recycling Education Committee
- Rye Energy Committee (two vacancies now)
- Mosquito Commission

### Alternates still needed:

- Conservation Commission
- Planning Board
- Recreation Commission
- Zoning Board of Adjustment

## Board of Selectmen Meeting October 26th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: not available

1. Selectman Jenness related her experience at the recent Rising Tides Conference, and pushed for more action and citizen involvement. [More Detail](#)

2. Initial proposal for Fire Department consolidation with Portsmouth was presented. Discussions will continue. [More Detail](#)

Board 7:00 pm

**November 10th** Trustees the Trust Funds 7:00 pm RPL

**November 12th:** Budget Committee all day work session 8:00am

**November 13th:** All day School Budget meeting 8:00 am RPL

**November 17th:** Recycling Education Committee 6:00 pm.

**November 18th:** School Board 6:00 pm RJH

**November 19th:** Conservation Commission 7:00pm.

**November 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](#))

**GIS Parcel Data:** [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](#).

3. Parsons Creek Watershed bacteria contamination source investigation has been inconclusive thus far, but levels are extremely high. A \$79,000 warrant article may be proposed to investigate community septic systems in the watershed. [More Detail](#)

4. Discussion of the budget for the Town Clerk's Saturday office hours included Selectman Mills berating a Town employee, threatening the other Selectmen and acknowledging that he had made a personal promise to a resident to reduce the hours. [More Detail](#)

5. The position of Finance Assistant Sue Dunfey has been eliminated, but no mention was made of whether this would reduce Town Hall space requirements. [More Detail](#)

## **BOS All Day Budget Meeting October 22nd:**

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: Not posted yet  
May be summarized at a later date.

## **Board of Selectmen Site Walks:**

1. October 14th: The Selectmen discussed an apparently illegally located driveway, the parking of vehicles making snow removal difficult, and possible enforcement action, during a site walk at 35 La Mer Dr. [Click Here](#) for RCL video

2. October 26th: The Selectmen viewed a pier and the adjacent house at 321 Pioneer Rd. to determine whether they should un-merge adjacent parcels pursuant to a property owner's request. [Click Here](#) for RCL video.

## **Board of Selectmen Meeting October 14th:**

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. The Capital Improvement Program Committee presented the CIP Plan for 2016-2021, which included recommendations to spread out a number of capital expenditures to prevent debt service from reaching an all-time high in 2017. [More Detail](#)

2. The five surplus vehicles, including three police cruisers and two dump trucks, that have accumulated in a graveyard at Public Works after their replacements were purchased, will be auctioned. [More Detail](#)

3. Eight Recreation Space Needs Committee members were appointed. A resident noted that the Selectmen did not invite anyone involved with Rye's youth sports programs to participate. [More Detail](#)

4. The Abenaki Country Club is having problems with sea water getting into the freshwater irrigation ponds. [More Detail](#)

5. New Hampshire DES was present to discuss redirecting grant funds for pollution evaluation in the Parsons Creek Watershed. No failed septic systems or other smoking guns have been found so it will be proposed that the Town borrow money for a feasibility study and broader plan. [More Detail](#)

## **School Board October 21st Meeting:**

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

2015-2016 School Year Calendar: [Click Here](#)

Draft Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

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

1. NECAP, STAR and Smarter Balance testing results were discussed. Parent education will be required to understand the new reports, ideally before results are sent out.

2. RES PowerSchool portal is now available for 5th grade.

3. RJH reported that the first Principal's Coffee with parents was held.

4. A 2% budget increase will require \$50K in cuts, while a 0% increase will require \$200K of budget cuts (these tend to be staff reductions).

5. Policy change so that Rye non-profits that benefit children who wish to

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

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

**School Budget:**  
Here is a link to the Proposed 2015-2016 School Budget.

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

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

use the schools will not be charged.

6. A long term plan is required to address the school boilers.
7. Parents raised concerns about students who attend private schools able to join their Rye friends at School dances and other activities. A policy change will be discussed at the November 18th meeting.
8. A steering committee will be formed for the Wedgewood Farm land.
9. Middle School Structure committee met with the consultant on October 13th, waiting to hear the recommendations.
10. REF requirements have been relaxed to encourage more grant requests.
11. RJH discussing a shift away from interscholastic teams due to declining participation.
12. School budget meeting November 13th at RPL 8:00am to 4pm.

### **Planning Board meeting: October 13th:**

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

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

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Update from the Rockingham County Conservation District on their support in Rye assessing the Wetlands Ordinances.
2. Amendment 2016-02 for multi-family dwelling frontage requirements is going back to the Town Attorney. Resident points out that this could/should be part of the Master Plan. Sea Glass Lane not fitting into Rye's semi-rural requirement was cited as an example.
3. Amendment 2016-03 to allow the Planning Board to waive requirements of the Growth Management Ordinance was approved as is.
4. Amendment 2016-05 on how "Living Space" is defined. Public hearing at the November 10th meeting. There is concern that changing the definition will allow for larger housing units to be constructed.
5. Amendment to discuss Certificate of Occupancy for rental units was discussed.

### **Rules & Regulations meeting: October 6th.**

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Zoning Amendments/Definitions voted to public hearings
  - a. 2016-02 Frontage requirements for multi-family dwellings/developments (workforce housing) without town road frontage via waiver
  - b. 2016.03 C multi family dwellings and developments (workforce housing) waiver of growth limits with safeguards New definition of living space based on interior space. Tabled Amendments: "prohibited", signage changes, zoning changes Jenness Beach, Harbor

Amendments in process/discussions:

2. Seasonal units, Wetlands, Prohibited Uses, Storm water Management

### **Planning Board November 10th Agenda:**

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. 901 Ocean Blvd. Unit 1: Minor addition to the existing structure.
2. 50 Jenness Ave.: Subdivide the lot
3. 25 Big Rock Rd: Requesting waivers from driveway regulations
4. Public Hearing of definition of "Living Space"
5. Discussion of other Amendments
  - 2016-02: Frontage for Multi-family units
  - 2016-06: Certificates of Occupancy
  - Conservation Commission amendment
  - Definition of "Prohibited"

- Other amendments for consideration

### **Zoning Board of Adjustment: October 7th:**

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

1. 472 Wallis Rd.: Set backs for moving an existing barn. Approved all in favor. Variances for Septic system location denied 3-2.
2. 25 Mountain View Rd.: Adding a second floor to an existing building. Approved all in favor.
3. 55 Lang Rd.: Special exception for an accessory apartment. Discussed and moved to November meeting.
4. 30 Elwyn Rd.: Constructing a second dwelling to be used for a business. Denied, all in favor.

### **Zoning Board of Adjustment: November 4th Agenda:**

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. 55 Lang Rd. Special Exception for accessory apartment
2. 114 Straws Point.: Installing an exterior generator
3. 20 Spruce Lane: Variances for a patio
4. 2256 Ocean Blvd.: Demolish existing building and new construction.
5. 0 Big Rock Lane: Driveway not connected to lesser traveled road.

### **Conservation Commission Meeting October 15th**

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

Conservation Land Maps: [Click Here](#)

Town Forest map: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Goss Farm Update: Pollinator habitat project
2. Acquisitions: Rand Lumber and South Road, surveys to satisfy NRCS grant, organization/completion of Rand Lumber documents
3. Salt Marsh Phragmites Control: Brackett Road, Fairhill Marsh, back of Wallis
4. Wetlands Conservation Amendments: update on work with Planning Board.

### **Town Hall Committee: October 21st**

2015 Charge: [Click Here](#)

[Town Information page:](#)

Town meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

RCL Notes: [Click Here](#)

Next steps:

- a. One or two architects will be contacted to do further study.
- b. Estimates for three conceptual designs are needed:
  - i. Renovation of the existing Town Hall
  - ii. Build out of the the space above the apparatus bay at the Public Safety Building for Town administrative use.
  - iii. Conversion of the second floor of the administrative area of the Public Safety Building for Town administrative use (which assumes that the firefighters are moved above the apparatus bay).
- c. Next meeting: Wed. Nov. 4, 6:30 p.m. at Junior High Cafeteria

### **Town Hall Committee: October 13th**

2015 Charge: [Click Here](#)

[Town Information page:](#)

Town meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

UNH Survey Presentation: [Click Here](#)

RCL Video of UNH Presentation: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting notes with Time Stamps: [Click Here](#)

1. 1,132 people completed the survey

2. Nearly 2/3 of residents opposed options that included new construction. Note the Town Hall Committee has been holding non-public sessions to consider the purchase of land for new construction.
3. 60% said they were not confident at all or not very confident that the Town Hall Committee explored all of the options.
4. One half of respondents feel the cost should be at or below \$2.5 million.

### **Beach Committee No meetings since July:**

Facebook Page [Click Here](#)

Last Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

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

### **Recreation Commission October 5th Meeting**

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

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Selectmen assigned members to the Recreation Facilities needs assessment and the architect has provided a 7 step process for them to follow.
2. There is a need for climate controlled storage to properly preserve equipment.
3. Budget discussions pointed out that the Town funds most of the administration costs. Some administration and all other staff funding comes from the revolving fund (program revenue).
4. Additional discussions indicate that residents need to speak up to support Recreation budget requests.
5. CIP recommendations continue to push out planned funding for the community center. Recreation investments have continually been pushed to later years.

### **Capital Improvements Committee: October 14th**

2016-2021 CIP Plan: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: BOS meeting presentation [Click Here](#)

1. CIP presentation to the BOS starts at 3:45 minutes [More Detail](#)

### **Demolition Review Committee July 29th**

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

### **Heritage Commission Meeting No October meeting**

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

1. Town Hall and Isles of Shoals Oceanic Hotel both named to Seven to Save

[Click Here](#) for Portsmouth Herald story

Application has much interesting information. [Click Here](#) to see the Seven to Save Application

### **Rye Energy Committee Meeting: No October Meeting:**

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

### **Rye Recycling Education Committee October 20th**

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: Not available

1. Discussion with 7th Graders who attended the meeting about scheduling RJH discussions to increase recycling at the School.
2. The compostable trays that are now being used are still going to the landfill.

**Historic District Commission No September Meeting**Learn more about the Historic District: [Click Here](#)**Library Board of Trustees October 13th**Trustee Home Page: [Click Here](#)Library Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

1. Budget discussion [click here](#) for draft meeting minutes
2. Granite sidewalk will be repaired.
3. Facilities meeting [Click Here](#)
  - HVAC work will be needed
  - Looking at a hedge or fence as the fence behind the Parsonage is falling down

**Mosquito Commission Meeting October 20th:**Learn more about the Mosquito Commission: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Nothing posted for September

Video of meeting: [Click Here](#)**Sewer Commission Meeting October 20th:**Learn more about the Mosquito Commission: [Click Here](#)Last Town Meeting Minutes: [July Click Here](#)

Video Recording: Are not being scheduled for recording

**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 Town Hall Project Running off the rails. [Click Here](#)**Portsmouth Herald Stories of Interest:**

1. Rye has NH's Top Library Director [Click Here](#)
2. Two Rye Sites make NH Seven to Save list [Click Here](#)
- 3 Judge says Wentworth CC to pay court case for resident who fought for public access to Sanders Poynt [Click Here](#)
4. How Portsmouth approaches updating the Master Plan [Click Here](#) for press release. Portsmouth Web page on the process [Click Here](#)
5. Eliot Pay as You Through reduces waste by 70% [Click Here](#)
6. York is addressing pollution and storm water issues: [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 discussed:

1. Town Hall Survey - key findings
2. Parson's Creek action plans started in 2010 and pollution appears to be getting worse

**2014 Climate Change Workshops:**

Residents need to continue to insist the town update the Master Plan and the town boards act accordingly.

Town Page with reference documents: [Click Here](#)New FEMA maps: [Click Here](#)Documents from Workshop #421 Things You Can Do: [Click Here](#)28 Things A Municipality Can Do: [Click Here](#)

Overview of Rye, County and State Activities: [Click Here](#)

Vulnerability Assessment: [Click Here](#)

From Tides and Storm Preparing for NH's Future Coast: [Click Here](#)

NH Climate Change Past and Future: [Click Here](#)

Work Shop #4 RPL Presentation: [Click Here](#)

[Click Here](#) for a brief summary of the program and four workshops.

## **Other Town Activity**

### **How Good is our Library?**

2014 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](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)

Steven Borne - President

[Forward email](#)



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