

Rye Civic News October 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

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:

October 28th 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

October 5th: Recreation Commission 6pm

October 6th: Rye Energy 6:30pm RPL

October 7th: Zoning Board of Adjustment 7:00pm

October 8th: CIP Committee 7:00pm.

October 13th: Sewer Commission 8:00am

October 13th: Planning Board 7:00 pm

October 14th: BOS and CIP 6:30pm

October 15th: Conservation Commission 7:00pm.

October 20th: Mosquito Commission 8:00 am.

October 20th: Recycling Education Commission 6:00 pm.

October 21st: School Board 6 pm RJH

October 22nd: BOS All day

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.
- At the Public Forum discussion informed citizens discuss different topics. This past week topics were the revolving door for Town Assessor, Town Hall, continued Parson's Creek pollution and public meeting notifications.
- Residents also answer questions about how to engage with Town government (mostly around developments).

General Announcements:

Rye Fire Dept. Open House: [October 4th](#) 12pm to 2pm (free Pizza)

CIP (\$1,269,971) draft presentation to BOS Oct. 14th: [Click Here](#)

RCL 2015 Citizen's Handbook: [Click Here](#) Hard copies available soon.

Parson's Creek Pollution: 2014 Report [Click Here](#) [Other Information](#)

Town Hall listed a a NH Historic Place: [Click Here](#) for Herald Story

Rye Recycling Video: [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](#)

Opinion Piece: Rye Town Hall Project Running off the Rails [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 September 28th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: not available

Prior to the meeting: Unveiling of the plaque to mark the Town Hall as a NH Historic property. [Click Here](#) for Herald Story.

Budget Workshop 8:00am

October 26th: Board of Selectmen 6:30pm.

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](#).

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](#)

1. Two new firefighter/paramedics were sworn in. [More Detail](#)
2. The Housing Partnership asked the Town to give them the Parsonage Apartments, assessed at over \$1 million, so that they can raise money to renovate them. They would be unwilling to continue with the existing arrangement, which expires in 2019. [More Detail](#)
3. Household Hazardous Waste Days may need to change in the future due to Hampton's withdrawal from the Solid Waste District. [More Detail](#)
4. As Police Chief Kevin Walsh somberly provided information relating to two drug overdose deaths over the weekend, two Selectmen made irrelevant quips. [More Detail](#)

Board of Selectmen Meeting September 16th:

RCL Meeting Notes: Non-Public Meeting

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Two hour non-Public meeting on Hiring and Reputation

Board of Selectmen Meeting September 14th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Selectmen approve 2 percent pay increase for budget, despite inflation of .2 percent, as contracts have a 2 percent floor. [More Detail](#)
2. Mosquito problems near Parsons Rd. will be looked into. Contractor asserts mosquitoes are way down in part due to few high tides flooding the marshes in recent years. [More Detail](#)
3. Town may not have authority to force remediation of algae in Breakers condo duck pond. [More Detail](#)
4. Recycling facility stickers have been ordered, will be provided free when residents renew their vehicle registrations. Enforcement will start a year later, after everyone should have their stickers. [More Detail](#)
5. Report on possible shared fire services with Portsmouth due at September 28 Selectmen's meeting. [More Detail](#)

School Board September 14th Meeting:

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

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

Draft Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

RCL Video of School Board Meeting: [Click Here](#)

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

1. Taxpayers wishing to participate in the School Budget process need to get involved earlier, not when the final budget is presented. [Click Here](#) to see the School Budget schedule.
2. Assistant Superintendent Killen gave an update on the progress towards Competency Based Education.
3. Parents will have access to the Smarter Balance starting November 12th along with information nights to help understand reading the results.
4. Discussions on how to respond to resident requests to have the school gyms open for youth recreation during the winter season. No definitive resolution was reached.
5. RJH managed to schedule their Open House the same evening as the PHS open house causing conflicts for many families.
6. RJH Wedgewood Farm met the fundraising goal to acquire the property for the RJH. [Click Here](#) to see letter to parents.
7. Board approved funding for a consultant to help with the Middle School Structure Committee. It was noted that N. Hampton is also looking at the structure of their Middle School.

Planning Board meeting: September 15th:

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

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

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

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

Other Helpful Links:

Live Free or Die Alliance

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Zoning Amendment change for tourist information to comply with Supreme Court ruling will be on the 2016 ballot
2. 31 Parsons Rd. Lot merger approved, site walk ([see minutes](#)) to evaluate driveway requests
3. 783 Washington Rd.: Voluntary merger of two lots approved
4. Conceptual consultation for lots across from BG Boathouse.
5. Discussion of proposed zoning amendments and definitions.
 - a) Frontage requirements for private roads. There will be a waiver provision for workforce housing
 - b) Waiver option from maximum town-wide new dwelling unit annual cap was discussed. Under some ordinances, multi-family units must have a work force housing component. There could be a waiver option if at least half of the units are below the cap. The cap has never been reached.
 - c) Definition of the word "Prohibited" tabled.
 - d) Sign ordinance will not move forward
 - e) More detailed definition of what comprises living space was discussed. Issues arose with Sea Glass Ln. 'porches' and use of interior measurements vs. exterior measurements used for tax assessments.
 - f) Former Assessor suggested some Jenness Beach and Rye Harbor business zones be reclassified as residential. Will not move forward.
6. Citizen proposed residential storm water management ordinance sent to departments for comment prior to Rules and Regulations review.
7. Lago's Ice Cream granted a waiver from full review under the Land Development Regulations to install a 10'x25' exterior freezer

Planning Board October 15th Agenda:

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. Public Hearing on Zoning Amendments
 - 2016-2 Adds frontage requirements for a multi-family house on a private street
 - 2016-3 Allows the Planning Board to waive some requirements of the Growth Management Ordinance for multi-family houses
 - 2016-5 Amends the Living Space definition for the calculations

Zoning Board of Adjustment: September 2nd:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

1. 6 Big Rock Lane: Installation of a generator approved. All in favor.
2. 270 West Rd.: New addition, garage and patio set back variances approved. All in favor.
3. 6 Spruce Lane: Variances for a Garage addition All in Favor
4. 0 and 10 Frontier Street: Houses on non-conforming lots
 - 0 Frontier approved 4-1
 - 10 Frontier approved 4-1

Zoning Board of Adjustment: October 7th Agenda:

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. 472 Wallis Rd. Setbacks for relocation of an existing barn and moving of the septic system.
2. 25 Mountain Terrace: Adding a second floor to an existing building
3. 55 Lang Rd. Allow an accessory apartment within an existing home.
4. 30 Elwyn Rd.: Construct a second dwelling unit and a business use.

Conservation Commission Meeting September 17th

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. Seven to Save application for the Town Hall was presented, but the Commission tabled discussion until the next meeting.
2. There will be a site walk for 63 Harbor Rd as there is a request to move a utility pole (currently in a Salt Marsh)
3. Site walk planned for 59 Harbor Rd as there is a request for additional parking space.
4. Planning Board has contracted with Tracy Degan to review the wetland regulations. With approximately one-third of Rye being wetlands, encroachment on the wetlands is a frequent discussion.

Town Hall Committee: No September Meetings

2015 Charge: [Click Here](#)

[Town Information page:](#) Not updated since March Election

Beach Committee No September Meeting:

Facebook Page [Click Here](#)

Last Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

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

Recreation Commission September 14th Meeting

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

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

Recorded Video: Held at Rye Rec where there is no video equipment

Town Meeting Minutes: Not posted

Capital Improvements Committee: September 30th

2015-2019 CIP Plan: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Not available

1. CIP will present to the BOS on October 14th [Click Here](#) to see a summary.
 - \$1,269,971 in 2016 investments
 - Rye Recreation facility pushed out again
2. No quorum. Work session on pages 10-24 of the plan

Capital Improvements Committee: September 24th

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Not available

1. Work session to prioritize projects and identify missing narrative and project and status sheets

Capital Improvements Committee: September 16th

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Not available

1. Consensus was reached that the School District, Water District, Jenness and Rye Beach Districts would appear in the appendix rather than in the CIP itself because they are not under the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen

Capital Improvements Committee: September 10th

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Not available

1. Work session to refine the tables on tax impact of the projects

Demolition Review Committee July 29th

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Heritage Commission Meeting September 3rdLearn more about the Heritage Commission: [Click Here](#)Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

1. . [Click Here](#) to see the Seven to Save Application for the Town Hall Building
2. Plaque's were installed [Click Here](#) for Herald Story

Rye Energy Committee Meeting: September 1st:Learn More about the Energy Committee: [Click Here](#)Town Meeting minutes:[Click Here](#)

Video Recording:

1. Next Poster Project may be the Town Hall
2. Waiting for the update on the actions of the Safety building recommendations
3. Summer intern worked on the Portfolio manager and the Small Town Carbon Calculator
4. State Rep. David Borden continues to work supporting Adams Park
5. There are now two openings for this committee

Rye Recycling Education Committee September 15thTown Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: Not available

compostable bags are now available for sale at Hungry Horse café and may possibly be for sale at other outlets including Town Hall if the Board of Selectmen approve this.

1. There is a "reduce reuse recycle" poster contest / open to all K through eighth grade students of Rye - the deadline is October 16.
2. Ideas for new and improved signage at our transfer and recycling center are being looked into.
3. Idea of trial recycling receptacle/s at town beach/es to be looked into @ later date for next year's beach season.

Historic District Commission No September MeetingLearn more about the Historic District: [Click Here](#)**Library Board of Trustees September 10th**Trustee Home Page: [Click Here](#)Library Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

1. Budget discussion [click here](#) for draft meeting minutes

Mosquito Commission Meeting September 15th:Learn more about the Mosquito Commission: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Nothing posted for September

Video of meeting: Not being scheduled to be recorded

Sewer Commission Meeting September 8th: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. How Portsmouth approaches updating the Master Plan [Click Here](#) for press release. Portsmouth Web page on the process [Click Here](#)
2. Eliot Pay as You Through reduces waste by 70% [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. Dismissal of the Town Assessor, the last one quit.
2. Town Hall Survey - no update and no public meetings
3. Parson's Creek action plans started in 2010 and pollution appears to be getting worse
4. Ideas for 2016 petitioned warrant articles.

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 #4

21 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

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

Forward email



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