

Town of Rye Warrant Article

ARTICLE __. *To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) to construct a multi-purpose recreation storage facility at the recreation area that includes heated storage, maintenance garage and a concession area. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required.)*

This article is recommended by the Selectmen (3-0)

This article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (8-0)

This article addresses the storage needs of Rye Recreation by constructing a modest two level multi-purpose recreation storage facility at the recreation area that includes heated storage, maintenance garage and a small concession area. The upper level would be approximately 24ft x 35ft and the lower level 24ft x 25ft. The proposed building size is 1,440 square feet just shy of the 1500 square feet recommended by the architect to meet the current and future needs for recreation department storage.

With limited space and resources under direct control of Rye Recreation, the department provides a wide range of programs and services to more than 1700 participants annually, ranging in age from 4 to +95. Programs are held at 12 different facilities, with supplies and equipment stored in 19 different locations.

A significant amount of time is spent by staff coordinating and moving materials back and forth from the storage space to program space. Many times equipment and materials must be washed or replaced because of mold or other environmental conditions that cause damage.

In response to a request from the Rye Recreation Commission regarding inadequate storage and facilities to support the Recreation Department in 2015 the Selectmen appointed a Rye Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment Committee to study the space needs for the department. Christopher Williams Architects was selected to conduct a Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment. The findings were presented to the Board of Selectmen in November of 2016.

A priority item identified in the report was the critical need for consolidated appropriate storage space. Currently recreation department storage space is spread throughout Town in areas that are difficult to access and unsafe. For example, the Recreation Department stores supplies and equipment at the old police station (Trolley Barn), amongst other retired town equipment with no heat and electricity. The storage available at the Recreation Area is predominantly in aging inadequate constructed shed-style buildings prone to rodents.

The Rye Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment Committee's Report and the Facility and Space Needs Assessment of Rye Recreation Facilities Report by Christopher P. Williams, Architects are both available for public review on the Town of Rye's website.