

Rye Civic News April 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:

NEW DATE: March 30
6:30 pm RPL

RCL on NHPR:

Story [Click Here](#) audio also available

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

March 26th:
Conservation
Commission 7:00 pm

March 26th: RJH Public expectations discussion
6:30 pm RJH

March 28th: Rye Water District Town Meeting
10:00 RJH

April 1st: Zoning Board of Adjustment 7:00 pm

April 2nd: Heritage Commission 6:30 pm

April 6th: Recreation Commission Meeting 6:00 pm

April 13th: Board of Selectmen 6:30 pm

April 14th: Sewer Commission 8:00 am

Water District Annual Meeting March 28th 10:00 am RJH

Water District Warrant: [Click Here](#)

Water District Budget: [Click Here](#)

1. Warrant Article 7, to convert the Rye Water District to SB2 (just like the Town and School) will be considered. If SB2 is adopted, voters will vote on Water District measures at the Town election on the first Tuesday in March. You must come to the March 28 meeting to vote on this. Public hearing video and notes are below or [Click Here](#).

Portsmouth Herald Article: [Click Here](#)

2. Also on the warrant is a measure to extend the Water District Service to a ten home subdivision in Greenland. [Click Here](#) for agreement.

Appointed and Alternate Positions:

There are many opportunities to serve. [Click Here](#) to see the pre-election list. If you are interested it is best to attend a meeting or two and introduce yourself. The chair for each group can provide guidance on next steps.

General Announcements:

Rye Little League Registration: [Click Here](#)

Seacoast Lacrosse Registration: [Click Here](#)

South School House: Available to move [Click Here](#)

Rye Recreation Senior Program: 2014-2015 Active, Alive and over 55
[Click Here](#)

Rye Recreation Spring Programs: [Click Here](#)

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

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

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

Public Opinion: Frustration with plastic recycling [Click Here](#)

Public Opinion: Does Rye need an IT Strategy? [Click Here](#)

How good is our Library: [Click Here](#) to see the numbers

Board of Selectmen Meeting March 23rd:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: not available yet.

March 9th meeting was canceled.

1. The recount results for the Budget Committee race were announced.

Ray Jarvis and Doug Abrams still received the most votes and were elected. [More Detail](#)

2. The Beach Committee was reappointed for another year, despite an assertion by Selectman Musselman that some members had gone rogue at the Deliberative Session. [More Detail](#)

3. Several abatements were granted. Assessor David Hynes admitted that he has lost a couple of cases in the Board of Tax and Land Appeals. He thus created a separate neighborhood for properties near Foss Beach to distinguish beach areas with lower values, rather than lumping them all together. [More Detail](#)

April 14th: Planning Board
7:00pm

April 14th: Rye Beach
District Annual Meeting
7:30 pm Rye Beach Post
Office

April 16th: Conservation
Commission 7:00 pm

April 27th: 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](#).

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

Jeness Beach Budget:
[Click Here](#)

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

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

4. Harriet Goff will be retiring in May as Police Department Secretary after 33 years of service. [More Detail](#)

5. Lt. Steven Laing will be retiring from the Fire Department in May after 38 years of service. There was discussion about the day shift being reduced from three firefighters to two. [More Detail](#)

6. Options for Town Hall were discussed following defeat of warrant article. These included demolition, a new site, and continuing to pursue the existing design. [More Detail](#)

7. Purchase of Recycling Center stickers by North Hampton residents and summer renters was discussed. New Saturday Town Hall hours will help with sale/distribution of stickers. [More Detail](#)

8. Recycling Education Committee charge renewal was discussed but no conclusion was reached. The Selectmen characterized the Committee's sponsorship of the petitioned pay-as-you-throw warrant article as "rogue." Mel Low refused to serve on the Committee if the Selectmen are going to dictate what it can do. Food composting (available to all as of April 1) was viewed by the Selectmen as a positive achievement of the Committee. [More Detail](#)

School Board March 4th Meeting Minutes:

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

Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Superintendents Bulletin: February [Click Here](#)

1. Peggy Balboni recognized by many for her 9 years on the school board.
2. Board requested that curriculum documents be posted on the RES and RJH websites and be presented to assist parents' understanding.
3. Smarter Balance Assessment is in place and STAR results are going home to parents
4. RJH will be piloting a lacrosse team

Planning Board meeting: March 17th:

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

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

RCL Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Not available

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. Rye Jr. High, 501 Washington Rd. - relocation of boundary lines for acquiring adjacent land Time stamp: 2:55 Approved unanimously
2. Old Ferry Landing Road - relocation of road Time stamp: 17:55 Six month extension granted
3. Rye Farm, 651 South Rd. - 5 lot subdivision Time stamp 28:35 Discussion of many issues; case continued to April meeting
4. Worden Family Trust, 464 Brackett Rd - 9 lot subdivision Time stamp - 2:16:50 Discussion of many issues - case continued to April meeting
5. 464 Bracket Rd Site Walk April 13th at 3:00 pm

Planning Board April 14th Agenda:

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

1. Election of officers, selection of subcommittee members and appointment of alternates.
2. Final major subdivision, 561 South Rd. (Rye Farm). Five lots, four to be buildable.
3. Final major subdivision, 464 Brackett Rd. Nine lots.

Zoning Board of Adjustment : March 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. 127 Clark Rd. Variances for addition - All in favor

Rye Library Strategic Plan:

[Click Here](#)

Rye Police Homepage

[Click Here](#)

Facebook: [Click Here](#)

Other Helpful Links:

[Live Free or Die Alliance](#)

2. 1126 Ocean Blvd.: Variances for expansion - All requests denied 4 to 1,
3. 39 Parson's Rd.: Variances for construction - Approved, all in favor

Zoning Board of Adjustment: April 1st:

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. 39 Parson's Rd: Variances for elevation and set backs
2. 150 Harbor Rd.: Administrative appeal for merged lots
3. 25 Oak Ave.: Expansion of non-confirming house
4. 4 Washington Rd. Remove and replace building

Rye Water District Public Hearing on SB2 March 12th:

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

RCL video: [Click Here](#)

1. Resident points to research that he did on SB2, indicating that, once towns become larger and less cohesive, factions and groups form, and traditional town meetings become less effective. [More Detail](#)
2. Another resident points out the planned \$5.5 million water treatment plant in 2017 and expresses concern that such a project could be approved by 40 voters. [More Detail](#)
3. Cost of SB2 implementation was discussed. Resident asserts that it would be "extremely minor" and less than \$1000. Water District budget provides for \$2000. [More Detail](#)
4. Resident asserts that, of 1500 voters at the last election, 1000 would have lived in the Water District. That is a lot more than 2, 3 or 40 that have been making the decisions in recent years, he asserted. [More Detail](#)

Solid Waste District March 18th meeting:

RCL Video: [Click Here](#)

Information distributed at meeting: [Click Here](#) and [Click Here](#)

1. Brentwood, Fremont, Kensington, North Hampton, Rye and Sandown will be remaining in the District. Hampton, South Hampton, Hampton Falls and New Castle (if their Town Meeting approves) will be withdrawing.
2. Withdrawing towns will receive cash payments representing their share of the equity.
3. Household hazardous waste days have been scheduled for May 30, 2015 in Hampton and August 29, 2015 in Brentwood. Withdrawing towns will be able to participate in household hazardous waste days for a fee.
4. District loss for April 1, 2014 through March 18, 2015 was \$40,027 accounted for largely by Engineering expenditures of \$24,313 and Legal fees of \$19,423. The loss reduced the equity (as of March 31, 2014) from \$78,228 to \$38,202 as of March 18, 2015.

Conservation Commission Meeting March 26th:

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

Will be covered in the May Civic News.

Note, this meeting will now be available on town hall streams.

Beach Committee:

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

NOTE: The town voted in favor of dissolving the Beach Commission and there is no 2015 Beach Committee at publication.

Demolition Review Committee March 18th

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

RCL Video of meeting: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

1. 511 Wallis Rd. Rand Lumber Barn: Discussion of moving it to 496 Wallis Rd.
2. Discussion of 4 Washington Rd. Public Hearing March 26th at 1:00 pm

Heritage Commission Meeting March 5th:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. The town voted in favor of increasing the number of commission members to 7.

Rye Energy Committee Meeting March 11th:

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

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Town Hall will be the next poster project (see the Library for an example).
2. Solar Program presentation will be in May.
3. \$2,000 Grant from NEGREF to municipal training/tracking.
4. David Borden and others continue to investigate how to help residents at the Adams Trailer Park.

Rye Recycling Education Committee March 18th

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. PAYT was voted down. Eliot reported a 59% reduction in trash and a \$34K surplus that will go towards reducing taxes.
2. Food Scrap Collection will be open to all starting April 1st. Only compostable bags (paper or available at stores) are allowed.
3. Updates on Rye's 30% recycling rate can only be produced annually.

Historic District Commission May 6th

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

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Mosquito Commission Meeting March 25th:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: Nothing posted

Video of March 25th meeting: [Click Here](#)

Recreation Commission Meeting March 2nd:

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

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Climate Change Workshops:

These have been completed and there was a presentation to the BOS, but actions have yet been committed to. Residents need to continue to insist the town updates 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](#)

1. A lot was discussed, including how these findings need to be incorporated into the Master Plan. [Click Here](#) for a brief summary of the program and four workshops.

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:

561 South Rd Development: Resident Information [Click Here](#)

- Petition for planning board: [Click Here](#)

- Map of Lot 5 [Click Here](#)

Does Rye need an IT Strategy? [Click Here](#)

Older opinion Recent Developments in Rye: [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 for March 30th:

1. Election results discussion
2. What next for Town Hall
3. Developments - Rye Farm, Bracket Road ,Demolitions

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: 2014 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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