

Rye Civic News April 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: Will be April 28th 6:30 pm
Location Rye Public Library

Meetings

(at Town Hall unless indicated)

April 4th: Conservation Trail Management 4:00 pm

April 4th: Recreation Facilities Space Needs Assessment 6:00 pm

April 6th: Zoning Board of Adjustment 7:00 pm

April 7th: Long Range Planning (Master Plan) 12:00 noon

April 7th: Heritage Commission 6:30 pm

April 9th: Jenness Beach Village District Annual Meeting 5pm

April 11th: Recreation Commission 6:00 pm

April 11th: Board of Selectmen 8:00 pm

April 12th: Sewer Commission 8:00 am

April 12th: Planning Board 7:00 pm

April 12th: Rye Beach Village District Annual Meeting Rye Beach Post Office 7:30 pm

April 13th: School Board 5:00 pm

April 19th: Mosquito Control Commission 5:00 pm

April 21st: Long Range Planning (Master Plan)

General Announcements:

- Coastal Risk and Hazard Commission:** [Click Here](#) for public comment [Click Here](#) for draft report
- Cancer Cluster February 2nd Report:** [Click Here](#) Other links [Click Here](#) April 7th Meeting at the Rye Congregational Church 6pm
Community Group facebook page: [Click Here](#)
- PTA hosted movie & discussion Most Likely to Succeed:** [Click Here](#) watch this movie (over 1 hour). RJH structure presentation [Click Here](#)
- Community Conversation on Substance Abuse:** [Click Here](#) for video
- Merging Rye Fire with Portsmouth Fire?** Draft agreement [Click Here](#)
- New BOS meeting rules** - Focused on public comment [Click Here](#)
- Rye Recreation Senior Program (updated):** 2015-2016 Active, Alive and over 55 [Click Here](#)
- Rye Recreation Spring Registrations:** [Click Here](#)
- Rye Recreation Summer Programs Registration:** [Click here](#)
- Assessment Data:** Online views of town lots [Click Here](#)
- GIS Mapping Software Presentation Video:** [Click Here](#)
- Rye Little League:** [Click Here](#)
- Seacoast Lacrosse:** [Click Here](#)
- In-Law apartment law is changing,** [Click Here](#) for story
- Seacoast African American History,** April 14th 7pm RPL. RHS/RPL event will focus on post Civil War to 20th Century with photo support from the Rye Town Museum.
- Discussion of issues facing Rye.** [Click Here](#)

Board of Selectmen Meeting March 28th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town Meeting minutes: Not available

- The Selectmen approved the Conservation acquisition at 561 South Rd. (lot 5) for \$350,000. [More Detail](#)
- Dump permits for contractors and landscapers will be put in place following Town Meeting approval. There will be no charge until 2017. [More Detail](#)
- The charges for the [Parsonage Committee](#) and the [Parson's Creek Committee](#) were approved. Members are being sought for both. [More Detail](#)
For more Parson's Creek information [Click Here](#) FB Environmental Parson's Creek report [Click Here](#) 2015 Pollution Report Data: [Click Here](#)
- Following unanimous opposition to a common command of Rye Fire with Portsmouth, the Selectmen will meet again with Portsmouth Fire Chief Achilles. [More Detail](#)
- The new procedure for meeting was approved which would allow committee chairmen to constrain public input to selected times during meetings. [More Detail](#)
- For the second time since 2014, Selectman Mills refused to vote in favor of enforcement action against Three Rivers Farm, an entity apparently controlled by Dan Philbrick. [More Detail](#)

Board of Selectmen Meeting March 14th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

12:00 noon

April 21st: Conservation Commission 7:00 pm

April 25th: Board of Selectmen 6:30 pm

Town Reference Documents on the Town Web Site:

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) [Click Here](#)

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.

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Water main replacement and repaving will occur this summer near Marsh and Parsons Roads. [More Detail](#)
2. Selectman Mills was selected as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, following the customary rotation. The various Committee representatives will remain as before. [More Detail](#)
3. The Parsonage and Parsons Creek committees will be formed in April. The charge will be developed at the March 28 meeting and volunteers are being sought. [More Detail](#)
4. New meeting procedures are being proposed. There will be an opportunity for public comment at the beginning of each meeting. Public hearings will provide five minute, three minute and one minute opportunities for each person to speak. [More Detail](#)
5. The Selectmen will be looking at ways to continue the discussion on Town Hall, although it is likely no money can be spent due to the defeat of related warrant articles. [More Detail](#)
6. Modifications were made to the charge of the Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment Committee. It is not certain that a new building will be proposed. [More Detail](#)

Rye Districts Information:

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

Rye Water District Annual Meeting prct 004 March 26th

[Click Here](#) for warrant

RCL Meeting Video [Click Here](#)

Rye Water Annual Budget: [Click Here](#)

1. Passed the Warrant article for \$1,196,892 operating budget.
2. Passed the Warrant articles for \$60,000 in funding for various reserves.
3. Petitioned warrant article to provide for an official ballot for the election of Water District officers failed.
4. DES speaker on the Water and cancer cluster questions. [Click Here](#) for Cancer Cluster section for more information.

Rye Beach Village District prct 002 Annual Meeting

District Meeting: April 12 Rye Beach Post-office 7:30 pm

RBVD Budget: [Click Here](#)

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

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

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

School Board March 16th Meeting:

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

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

Draft School Board Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

RCL Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

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

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

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

1. RJH Structure presentation [Click Here](#)

RJH Draft Goal Statement: [Click Here](#)

Explanation Hand out: [Click Here](#)

Letter to Parents: [Click Here](#)

2. Scott Marion elected Chairman, Kevin Brandon Vice-Chairman and Kate Hillman Secretary. [More Detail](#)

Rye Trust Fund
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

3. Three models for Middle School structure were presented. [More Detail](#)
4. The public engaged in vigorous discussion of the models. [More Detail](#)
5. The Board tentatively selected Model Two, which provides for Social Studies taught by each of the three core teachers as a separate course. [More Detail](#)

Planning Board meeting: March 1st:

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](#)

RCL Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. Outdoor Pride was exempted from site plan review to erect a 2040 sf greenhouse in the Wetlands buffer and Aquifer Protection District. Required information was missing from the public notice. [More Detail](#)
2. Julie LaBranche from RPC attended the meeting to ensure that all members were on board with the scope of a new chapter being written for the Master Plan. The chapter is now called "Coastal Hazards and Adaptation" as some members will not call it "Climate Change."
3. Discussion regarding Peter Rowell's requests to establish a process to report/enforce subdivision requirements from past Planning Board approvals: Whitehorse; Marjorie Way HOA, and Sea Glass. [Click Here](#) to see documents
4. Discussion regarding the removal of the stone wall at 2 Marjorie Way.

March 7th and 17th LRP Meeting (Master Plan)

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

Draft Town Meeting March 7th Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town Meeting March 17th Minutes: [Click Here](#)

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

Recorded Video March 17th: [Click Here](#)

1. The LRP Committee is continuing to work on a "Climate Change" chapter for the Master Plan, however, the name of the chapter has now been changed to "Coastal Hazards and Adaptation" to avoid the term "Climate Change." Subsequently, the Chair of the LRP asked to reword some of the content to reflect the new title. Julie LaBranche, from RPC, brought an article about rising sea levels to illustrate that climate change is real. Great emphasis has been placed on condensing the chapter, shortening paragraphs, and eliminating "buzz words" related to climate change. See Portsmouth Herald article: [Click Here](#)

Technical Review Committee March 29th:

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

This meeting was not posted for the public and there was no e-mail notification.

Planning Board April 12th Agenda:

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. Major Site Development Plan 1313 Ocean Rd demolish existing buildings and replace with larger structures.
2. Major Site Development Plan 60 Wentworth Rd to add a Ball Room to the existing club house.
3. Amendment to Major Site Development 48 Dow Lane to add deck and patio to existing condo units.

Zoning Board of Adjustment: March 2nd:

Recorded Video [Click Here](#):

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

Present: Weathersby, Goldman, Dibble, Crapo, Mikolaities

1. 12 Huntervale Ave. - addition to building and parking issues: side and

front setback. Approved 5-0

2. 1313 Ocean Blvd. Issues: replace non conforming building with new building with 3 units issues: number of units, septic, wetlands, bldg height.

Approved 3-2

3. 30 Surf Ln. - Issues: Replace non-conforming building. with new building issues: front setback and bldg. coverage approved 4-1 Other variance request. Approved 5-0

4. 2256 Ocean Blvd. Issues: - demo bldg and replace with new building continued to April meeting

Zoning Board of Adjustment: April 6th Agenda:

See Concord Monitor Story about "In-law apartments" [Click Here](#)
[Click Here](#) for agenda

1. 2250 Ocean Blvd.: Demolish existing building and rebuild with set back and additional variances

2. 426 Wallis Rd.: Replace garage with a new structure including living space.

3. 30 La Mer Dr.: Special Exception for accessory apartment

4. 161 Harbor Rd.: Administrative Appeal of letter from the Building Inspector.

5. 1323 Ocean Blvd.: Remove and replace shed and generator within the wetlands buffer.

6. 17 Perkins Rd.: Variances to setbacks, existing building had variances.

7. 1601 Ocean Blvd.: Variances within the tidal buffer

8. 287 Wallis Rd: Variances for shed and garage

9. 34 Brackett Rd. Special exception for barn within the wetlands buffer and shoreland buffer.

Conservation Commission March Meetings

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

Conservation Land Maps: [Click Here](#)

Town Forest map: [Click Here](#)

March 17th Video Recording: [Click Here](#), meeting minutes not posted

March 17th RCL Meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

March 30th Video Recording South Rd Public hearing: [Click Here](#)

- 561 South Rd., lot 5 acquisition for \$350,000 approved

March 2nd Draft Trail Management Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

March 24th Draft Site walk Parsons & Marsh Rd: [Click Here](#)

1. Multiple Wetlands issues were discussed and site walks planned.

a) 1601 Ocean Blvd: expanding a deck in the tidal buffer, site walk was March 24th

b) 34 Brackett Rd. Constructing a barn in wetlands and tidal buffers, site walk was March 24th

c) 1323 Ocean Blvd.: set backs for replacement of shed and generator, site walk was March 24th

2. Trail Committee is focused on the use and maintenance of the Town Forrest. The July 2003 Forest Management Plan should be updated every 10 years. [Click Here](#) to see the 2003 document.

3. Discussion of improved signage for hunting and designated the land. A walk of the Rand parcel shows abutters encroaching and dumping on that parcel.

4. Member of the public indicated that obtaining conservation documentation at Town Hall continues to be difficult.

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 report

Beach Parking Report: [Click Here](#)

1. BOS is accepting letters from appointees, but no indication of any change to this Selectmen's committee charge.

Recreation Commission March 7th:

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

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

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

Spring program Registrations: [Click Here](#)

Summer program Registrations: [Click Here](#)

Active, Alive and over 55 Programs: [Click Here](#)

1. Recreation Space Use is meeting, March 28th BOS discussed revising the charge.
2. Fall Soccer from Rye Recreation has started (this is not Travel Soccer).

Heritage Commission Meeting March 3rd

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

Recorded Video: Held at the library

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

1. Discussion of "save the bell" program.
2. Commission voted unanimously (including Selectmen's Representative Priscilla Jenness) to recommend a "no" vote on Article 4, the 541 Washington Rd. acquisition for \$460,000.
3. The Chairman will write a letter to the editor indicating that the Commission is recommending a yes vote on Article 22 (to include consideration of options including saving the Town Hall) and a no vote on Article 4.

Rye Energy Committee Meeting: March 1st:

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

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

1. March 12th Stay Warm & Save Money program at the RPL
[Click Here](#) for video of that meeting
2. Waiting for Jenness Beach Annual meeting for next steps on replacing the street lighting.
3. Progress is being made on assessing effectiveness of past grants to support new grant activity. Sale of Eat Local tote bags is the only funding source for the Rye Energy Committee (no budgeted dollars).
4. Adams Park owner was receptive to recommendations from the REC.
5. BOS asked the REC to research installing Solar Arrays at the closed Rye Landfills.
6. Library is looking into more efficient parking lot lighting.

Rye Recycling Education Committee March 15th

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: Not available

1. Only three of the five members will continue o this committee, so two or more additional members are needed.
2. Discussion of the goals of the committee
 - Increase the low rate of Recycling in Rye
 - Increase the use of the food composting service available at the Transfer Station
 - Improving communication to residents

Historic District Commission March 7th 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 March 22nd

Trustee Home Page: [Click Here](#)

Library Meeting minutes: February and March meeting minutes not posted yet

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Mosquito Commission Meeting March 15th

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 March 8th:

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. Commission is continuing to discuss a move to flat rate fees.
3. Discussed having a preliminary feasibility study for a sewer for Rye Harbor to North of Wallis Sands for the Parsons Creek human waste component of the pollution.

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? [Click Here](#)

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 Town Hall Project Running off the rails. [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. Fire Department Consolidation
2. Parson's Creek & Parsonage Selectman's Committee
3. RJH Principal resignation and RJH Structure
4. List of Rye issues and the lack of leadership

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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4/3/2016

Rye Civic News April 2016 from the RCL

Sent by civicnews@ryecivicleague.org