

# Rye Civic News March 2017

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 \(click here\)](#)  
[RCL Facebook Page](#)

## Next RCL

### Meeting:

May 1st RPL  
6:30 pm

## Meetings

(at Town Hall unless indicated)

April 5th.  
Board of  
Selectmen  
4:30pm

April 5th:  
Zoning Board  
of Adjustment  
7:00pm

April 6th:  
Heritage  
Commission  
6:30pm.

April 10th  
Board of  
Selectmen  
6:30pm.

April 11th:  
Sewer  
Commission  
8:00am RBVD

April 11th:  
Planning Board  
7:00pm.

April 12th:  
Recreation  
Commission  
6:00 pm

April 19th:  
Budget  
Committee  
6:00pm

April 20th:  
Conservation  
Commission  
7:00pm

## March Highlights:

1. 32% of residents voted in Town Election ([Town results](#)) compared to 75% in November
2. Next steps to address the space needs for Rye Recreation did not pass
3. All Town Government actionable Town Hall warrant articles failed.
4. Article to study options for enabling more younger families in Rye failed, but the article to investigate options for the two school buildings passed.
5. South Road Development will be at the Zoning Board of Adjustment on [April 5th](#)
6. Resident suing the Town and Planning Board for not following the RSA's when the Town approved the Wentworth Country Club's 90" Driving Range netting.
7. Article to move the Water District to a Water District Deliberative Meeting and Election Day vote failed 22-10 (about 2/3 of Rye is the Rye Water District and they have a \$1.2 million budget).
8. Beach Committee was reestablished but is no longer involved with the Lifeguards.
9. Rye Civic League Strategic Planning meeting concluded the re-deign of the website and a more dynamic process for posting key information is needed. More assistance is needed from residents. [Click Here](#)
10. Mosquito Commission has pointed out that much of Rye is Marsh/Swamp and no group is responsible for managing this large portion of Rye.

## General Announcements:

1. Appointed and Alternate Positions: There are plenty of opportunities to serve. Please contact the Chairman of the Board, Commission or Committee
2. Next step for 421 South Rd. Development is the April 5th ZBA meeting
2. **Sanders Poynt** will return to Public Access thanks to Bob Jesurum, but he incurred over \$100K in legal fees. [Click Here](#) to see how you can help. Herald story [Click Here](#)
3. **Coakley Landfill & Cancer Cluster fact sheet:** [Click Here](#)
4. **Rye Recreation Senior Program:** 2016-2017 Active, Alive and over 55 [Click Here](#)
5. **Rye Recreation Spring Programs Registration** ([Click Here](#));
6. **Rye Recreation Summer Programs Registration (new):** [Click here](#)
7. **Assessment Data:** Online views of town lots [Click Here](#)
8. **GIS Mapping** Software Presentation Video: [Click Here](#)
9. **RHS Papa Joe's Traveling Storytelling:** April 15th 10:00am to noon RPL [Click Here](#)
10. **RHS Pretty Halcyon Days on the Beach with Ogden Nash;** May 18th 6:30pm RPL

## Board of Selectmen Meeting March 27th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: not posted yet

RCL Meeting Minutes annotated with time stamps: [Click Here](#)

1. New Selectman Winslow is replacing Selectman Musselman as Budget Committee representative. Selectman Musselman is replacing Selectman Jenness as Heritage Commission representative. [More Detail](#)
2. Beach use permits for Summer Sessions, Cinnamon Rainbows, Portsmouth Paddle and Gyrotonic Seacoast were approved. Two other applications were tabled. [More Detail](#)
3. Raises for town employees of 2.5 percent were approved. The Police Lieutenant's grade was also increased a level, giving him another 7 percent increase. [More Detail](#)
4. The process of hiring a full-time Fire Chief will be started. [More Detail](#)

## Board of Selectmen N. Hampton & Rye Fire Cooperation

### Subcommittee March 29th:

Video Recording: none

Town Meeting minutes: not posted yet

March 1st Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

## Board of Selectmen Meeting March 16th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

April 24th:  
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)

Town Forest  
Managment  
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.

Town Meeting minutes: not posted yet

RCL Meeting Minutes annotated with time stamps: [Click Here](#)

1. Eversource is planning more tree trimming. After admitting that they do not inform residents of their rights unless asked, Eversource's tree trimming contractor agreed to hold off for a few days until the Town can send letters informing residents that they have a right to refuse trimming. [More Details](#)
2. A discussion of writeoff policies for ambulance charges revealed that residents on Medicare are apparently being pursued by collection agencies for ambulance charges in excess of the Medicare rate. [More Details](#)
3. A resident on Big Rock Rd. questioned why the tax card for a previously unbuildable lot near Cable Rd. and Big Rock, that, he asserts, led to the firing of the assessor, had not been corrected back to unbuildable status. [More Details](#)
4. Despite a commitment by the new Governor to a response within two days, the Town has still not heard back from the NHDOT regarding its plan to put parking meters on Ocean Blvd. [More Details](#)
5. Lang Rd. may be relocated for safety reasons. However, for two years, left turns from Lang Rd. onto Ocean Blvd may be blocked. Selectman Musselman stated that this was unworkable. [More Details](#)
6. The Police, Fire and DPW departments were thanked for their work during the blizzard. [More Details](#)

### **Cancer Cluster & Governor's Coakley Landfill Taskforce:**

Community Facebook page: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes from October: [Click Here](#)

NHDES and EPA Presentation 10/20 meeting: [Click Here](#)

US Geological Survey Presentation 10/20 meeting: [Click Here](#)

Full USGS 2009 Study of Seacoast Ground Water Resources: [Click Here](#)

Draft Subcommittee Recommendations to Task Force: [Click Here](#)

Google Drive of documents related to subcommittee's work: [Click Here](#)

Coakley-Greenland Cancer Fact Sheet: [Click Here](#)

### **Rye Districts Information:**

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

Rye Beach Village District Budget: [Click Here](#) Annual meeting may be April 11th (not confirmed)

Jeness Beach Village District Budget: [Click Here](#)

### **Rye Water District Annual Meeting March 25th:**

Draft Water District Meeting Minutes March 1st: [Click Here](#)

RCL Video: [Click Here](#)

Rye Water Testing Data: [Click Here](#) Note no analysis included

Rate Increase Letter: [Click Here](#) Report is not yet posted for the public.

1. Budget and warrant articles passed as proposed.
2. Petitioned warrant article to provide an official ballot in 2018 as a precursor to SB2 vote in that year failed 22-10

### **Jeness Beach Village District Annual Meeting: March 18th:**

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

RCL Video: [Click Here](#)

1. District officers attempted to prevent the Civic League from video taping this public meeting (allowed by State Law).

2. Officers provided the financial records to the District Auditor the day of the meeting for review.

3. Over \$96,000 was spent by the district. 2017 budget is \$125,000 [Click Here](#)

4. Update on the LED light project

5. There will be another meeting July 15th 5pm.

### **School Board March 8th Meeting:**

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

2017-2018 School Calendar: [Click Here](#)

Rye PTA Website: [Click Here](#)

Superintendent's Bulletin: (website is down)

School Board Update e-mail: no new one available

RCL Video of School Board Meeting Part 1: [Click Here](#)

RCL Video of School Board Meeting Part 2: [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 2017-2018 School Budget.

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

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

1. Science NECAP Score Analysis (many not proficient), no update
2. Physical Education Curriculum discussed. Based on Society of Health and Physical Educators.
3. Mr. Katkin is working on a detailed capital improvement plan
4. Social Studies feedback results were summarized. While it is still early, positive comments were heard along with a few concerns that were discussed.
5. Discussions of the annual parents survey.

### **Planning Board meeting: March 2nd:**

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

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

RCL Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

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

1. 60 Wentworth Rd - (Wentworth Country Club) Replace golf net and wooden poles with larger and longer net and higher steel poles. Voted 6-0 with one abstention to accept jurisdiction of the minor site development plan. After further discussion, voted 6-1 to approve the plan with four conditions
2. 421 South Rd - major subdivision lot line adjustment and conditional use permit. Extensive discussion. Continued to April meeting

### **LRP Public Meeting (Master Plan)**

#### **NO CHANGES, MEETINGS, UPDATES SINCE THE OCTOBER CIVIC NEWS**

[Click Here](#) to see the history of the meetings and activities in 2016.

Three Chapters are being updated for Climate Change impacts, Land Use, Transportation and Natural Resources

[Click Here](#) for the current Master Plan 2013.

### **Rules and Regulations Committee and Zoning Amendments:**

No recent meetings

### **Planning Board April 11th Agenda:**

Agenda for meeting: Not available as of April 2nd

### **Zoning Board of Adjustment: March 1st:**

Recorded Video [Click Here](#)

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

1. 0 Big Rock Rd. Re-subdivide 11 non-conforming lots to create two new non-conforming lots. Issues: lot area, frontage, contiguous upland soil, extensive discussion. Denied 5-0
2. 12 Robin Rd. Demo existing building and replace with a new one. Issues: setback and distance from property line of new septic system. Approved 5-0
3. 371 & 365 Sagamore Rd - withdrawn
4. 394 Wallis Rd - demo shed and expand non conforming building. Issues: setback  
Continued

### **Zoning Board of Adjustment: April 5th Agenda:**

[Click Here](#) for agenda

1. 394 Wallis Rd: Replacing shed within the setbacks
2. 740 Washington Rd: Second dwelling on the lot and within the wetlands buffer.
3. 96 Clark Rd.: New shed within the setbacks
4. 30 LaMer Drive: Tear-down and replace with a new building
5. 421 South Rd. Lot 31 and 25 Tax Map 4 Variances for a driveway across wetlands and within the wetlands and vernal pool buffer zones

### **Conservation Commission (CC) March 16th:**

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

Conservation Land Maps: [Click Here](#)

Wetlands Map [Click Here](#)

Town Forest map: [Click Here](#)

RCL Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

RCL time stamps and more detail: [Click Here](#)

Town Draft Meeting minutes: Not Available, but the [Agenda](#) is very detailed

March 24th Site Walk Minutes: [Click Here](#) Site-walk Agenda [Click Here](#)

1. Thoret wetlands application. Site walk Friday, 3/24 at 4:00 p.m. (1:19 elapsed)

2. McCune wetlands application (Barba wetlands application was not heard). No site walk for McCune yet. Will be revisited in April (6:26 elapsed)
3. Beynon wetlands application. Site walk Friday 3/24 at 4:30 p.m. (12:36 elapsed)
4. Chiaramito correspondence on hunting at Goss Farm. Permission reluctantly granted as is (24:47 elapsed)
5. Petralia update on wetlands violation. DES and ConCom are involved as the Petralias are not doing what was requested. (50:38 elapsed:)
6. Moura update. This is property next to Ray's. Suit has been filed regarding discharge into wetlands. Test pits for septic are being done. (56:02 elapsed:)
7. South Rd. development. ConCom just received correspondence from Falzone. ConCom will not comment as insufficient time to review prior to ZBA meeting at which variance for wetlands crossing is being sought. (65:25 elapsed:)
8. Update on Mittelman Trust, 130 Harbor Rd. Application for large dock was granted by State (75:29 elapsed: )

### **Recreation Commission Meeting March 8th:**

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

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

Spring program Registrations: [Click Here](#)

Summer program Registrations: [Click Here](#)

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

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

1. Ralph Morang baseball field drainage and the pond guard rail were discussed.
2. Rye's regional sports organizations (baseball, lacrosse and Rye Travel soccer) were invited to the meeting. Seacoast Lacrosse reported that there are 137 Rye/Newcastle children in the 2017 program.

### **Heritage Commission Meeting March 2nd and 12th.**

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

Recorded Video March 2nd: [Click Here](#)

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

Draft Town Meeting minutes March 12th: [Click Here](#)

### **Mosquito Commission Meeting March 21st:**

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

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

Video of meeting: [Click Here](#)

1. Posters are available [Wanted Not](#) [Bug Them](#)
2. Selectmen chose to not move forward with a Standing Water Ordinance
3. Discussion of Rye's need for Marsh Management (significant percentage of Rye is Marsh and there is not active, staffed group with responsibility to manage our marches..)
4. Commission discussed a name change and expansion of this Commission to address this concern.
5. A Mosquito complaint form will be developed and posted on the town's website.

### **Rye Energy Committee Meeting: March 7th:**

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

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

1. Committee presented and discussed Solar panels for various Rye buildings. An RFP for those options were developed.
2. Many Seacoast communities are actively participating and promoting the Bottom/Solar Up Seacoast. There is a First Wave and Second Wave programs.

### **Rye Recycling Education Committee February 21st**

Video Recording: Not available

Draft town meeting minutes: Not available

### **Library Board of Trustees March 13th & 20th:**

Trustee Home Page: [Click Here](#)

Salary Planning Draft Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

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

Recorded Video March 20th: [Click Here](#)

1. Candidates are being interviewed for the new Youth Programming Position

2. New Streaming technology is available and the RPL is investigating.
3. Progress is being made on the Salary Progerssion study and recommendations

### **Sewer Commission Meeting February 14th**

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

March 14th Meeting was canceled as Town Offices were closed.

### **Historic District Commission March 7th Meeting**

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town Meeting Minutes: Not Available

**There is helpful information included in the sections for commissions and committees that are not actively meeting. Opinions, Public Discussion and additional content are also included below.**

### **Beach Committee:**

Facebook Page [Click Here](#)

Selectmen disbanded the Beach Commission (voter supported) and last met in July.

See BOS notes as this commission will continue.

### **Trustees of the Trust Funds January 24th**

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

Recoded Video: [Click Here](#)

1. Audit report was submitted and reviewed by the Trustees
2. Discussed the Library's Excess Liquidity Investment Guidelines that they helped develop.
3. Reviewed and discussed economic conditions and the most prudent investment strategies.
4. Trustee's voted to move away from a fund that had done well in the past but has been recently trending in the opposite direction.

### **Parson's Creek Pollution Committee November 15th Final Report:**

Organized Additional Information: [Click Here](#)

Information from the Planning Department: [Click Here](#)

Committee Charge from the BOS: [Click Here](#)

RCL Discussion Page: [Click Here](#)

Summer Pollution Testing Results: [Click Here](#)

RCL Notes of 9-28 Final Report: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording Sept 6th: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes:

Septic System Presentation: [Click Here](#)

NH Storm Water Management Guide: [Click Here](#)

Committee Final 11/28 Report to Selectmen [Click Here](#)

1. Owners of only 36% of septic systems in the Parsons Creek Watershed have reported last pump out dates, despite 2016 ordinance requiring all to have reported by now.
2. Process to date has discovered 5 or 6 decades old temporary holding tanks
3. Committee recommending a septic system inspection ordinance for the watershed when homes are sold.

### **Parsonage Apartments Committee Final Report Completed:**

Committee Charge from the BOS: [Click Here](#)

Final Report submitted to BOS on October 12th: [Click Here](#)

See RCL memo to the BOS: [Click Here](#)

Opinion piece on Parsonage Apartments and RCD: [Click Here](#)

Additional Information on the report from the RCL: [Click Here](#)

Committee Recommendations:

1. The Town should neither sell the Parsonage nor enter into a long-term lease with The Housing Partnership (THP), or any other entity.
2. The number of units at the Parsonage is not to be increased (on site).
3. The Town should hire Plan NH to conduct a design charrette for the future of the Rye Center.

4. The Town should lease the Parsonage to THP or someone else following the expiration of the lease, for a term not to exceed twenty-years, with a number of conditions attached.
5. The Town should explore potential alternate Town-owned sites for low income/workforce housing.
6. Additional information on the report from the RCL [Click Here](#)

### **Capital Improvement Plan Presented to BOS November 28th:**

Approved CIP presented on 11-28: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video [Click Here](#) Starts at 4:09 on the video

[Click Here](#) for a summary of the projects.

[Click Here](#) for a list of all of the projects

After six months of work with the Town of Rye Departments and Commissions, the Capital Improvement Plan [CIP] Committee has completed the six year [2017-2022] study of capital outlay needs. The CIP Committee recommendations are based upon a scale of priorities.

Priority One is to secure life and property. Priority Two is to maintain the present standard of living. Priority Three is to improve the community consistent with the Rye Master Plan. The Recommendations made in this CIP are:

1. The CIP Committee agrees school security is the number 1 priority.
  2. The CIP Committee recommends the replacement of the Public Works Dump Truck #108. It is in poor condition.
  3. The Town Hall redesign reflects a revised placeholder of \$2.9MM in 2018.
  4. To fund a new Quint Fire Truck in 2018 the CIP recommends a warrant article to add to the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund. A new Quint Fire Truck estimated at \$575K.
  5. The CIP Committee recommends the delay of the Conservation Bond \$3MM and the Recreation Community Center Building at \$2.5MM pending the Town Hall design decision.
- The CIP was accepted by the Board of Selectmen at their meeting on November 28, 2016.

### **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..

### **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:**

None

### **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. School Budget, meeting minutes, PHS, Testing results
2. South Road stressing the land
3. Warrant Articles
4. Town Hall & lack of a overall facilities plan

### **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: 2016 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

*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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