

Rye Civic News

from the Rye Civic League

December 2014

"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:
December 29th 6:30 pm
RPL (Dec. 1st also)
 (meetings are normally the 4th Wednesday of the month unless noted)

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

Dec. 1st Recreation Commission 6:00pm

Dec 3rd Zoning Board of Adjustment 7:00 pm **RJH**

Dec. 3rd: Town Hall Committee 6:30 pm

Dec. 4th: Heritage Commission 6:30 pm.

Dec. 8th: Board of Selectmen 6:30 pm

Dec 9th: Sewer Commission 8:00am

Dec. 9th: Planning Board 7:00 pm **RJH**

Dec. 10th Budget Committee (not on town calendar yet) 6:30 pm Town and 7:00 pm town

Dec. 17th: Recycling Education Committee 6:00

General Announcements:

2015 Rye Open Positions Summary: [Click Here](#)

Candidates must file to run the first part of January

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

Rye History Museum: Holiday Open House and shopping [Click Here](#)

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

Holiday Parade: December 7th:

561 South Rd (Rye Farm): The ZBA (12-3) and Planning Board meeting (12-9) will both be at the RJH. See information from residents [Click Here](#)

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

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

Board of Selectmen Meeting November 24th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: not available yet.

1. Constance Abell appointed Deputy Treasurer. [More Detail](#)

2. State plans for roads including Lang & Lafayette intersection and the Newcastle Bridge are discussed. [More Detail](#)

3. Beach Committee presents its report. Selectmen question whether a Beach Commission is still needed. [More Detail](#)

Parking Report: [Click Here](#)

Beach Report: [Click Here](#)

4. Rye joins in new Waste Management contract with the Solid Waste District, saving \$17,000 annually. [More Detail](#)

5. Policy on mailboxes hit by plows discussed. [More Detail](#)

6. Selectmen approved a \$25,000 capital expenditure for two new computer servers after a brief explanation. [More Detail](#)

7. For the third meeting in a row, Selectman Mills has issued threats against a town resident. [More Detail](#)

Board of Selectmen November 10th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. The Town tax rate for 2014 has been set at \$3.68, compared to \$3.12 in 2014, an increase of nearly 18 percent. The overall tax rate (exclusive of districts) is up from \$10.97 to \$11.55, nearly all of which is due to the Town tax rate increase. [More Detail](#) [Click Here](#) for table

2. Town acquisition (for \$1.25 million) of the back portion of the former Rand Lumber parcel was approved by the Conservation Commission and the Selectmen. [More Detail](#)

3. CIP Plan issues were discussed. Selectman Musselman expressed concern that debt with the Town Hall project would reach the previous high, even before considering other large projects slotted for 2016 and 2017.

pm

Dec. 18th: Conservation Commission 7:00 pm

Dec. 22nd: 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
Oct 23rd Dept Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

2014 Town Budget [Click Here](#).
2014 Budget Executive Summary [Click Here](#)
RCL Budget Presentation [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 full 2014-2015 School Budget.

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

Other Helpful Links:

[Live Free or Die Alliance](#)

[Click Here](#) for RCL Budget Presentation pointing this out. Selectman Musselman pushed the CIP Committee to winnow the projects down from a "wish list" to a prioritized list based on affordability and whether the project fits into the Town's financing structure. [Click Here](#) for RCL survey pointing out resident interest in such rationalization. [More Detail](#)

4. The parking study commissioned by the Town was presented by the consultant. Potential revenues of \$400,000 annually are projected if parking meters were to be installed. The consultant recommends striping of parking spaces whether or not meters are installed. Remote parking with shuttle buses should be considered as a last resort, according to the consultant. [More Detail](#)

Board of Selectmen Tax Rate Setting Nov 7th:

RCL Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: non available

1. See the summary table from the RCL: [Click Here](#)

2. Town had \$549,925 less of a surplus this year to reduce taxes even though the School Board returned a surplus this year.

3. The town approved a number of spending warrant articles in 2014. This rate does not include any payments for the \$3 million in conservation. That is yet to come.

4. The tax increase works out to \$290.77 more with a \$500K home, \$581.53 with a \$1m home, etc...

Solid Waste District Meeting November 12th:

RCL Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. District is allowing New Castle and Hampton Falls to leave. Remaining towns are Kensington, Rye, North Hampton, Hampton, Brentwood, Fremont, Sandown and South Hampton.

2. At 11-24 BOS meeting town approved going with Waste Management contract.

Budget Committee All Day Budget Mtg November 13th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Summary Table Notes: [Click Here](#)

October 23rd Department Budget Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

October 23rd Budget Meeting Video: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: Not available

1. All day meeting resulted in a single budget cut: A \$500 reduction in the Heritage Commission budget to eliminate postage that was to be used for a mailing to raise funds for Town Hall renovation. See RCL summary table [Click Here](#)

2. An attempt to remove \$2000 to purchase newly-designed Town flags from the Patriotic Purposes budget was defeated, with only two voting against.

3. Approximately \$20,000 capital outlay for a mobile electronic sign was approved.

4. Budget Committee questioned how both 2014 and 2015 can be 53 week years. Editor's note: 2014 budget was incorrect. Year had only 52 pay days.

5. Public Works capital outlays of \$70,000 for Sawyers Beach berm (\$5K), two culvert replacements (\$29K), Harbor Rd. bridge refurbishment design (\$10K), and automated road condition monitoring (\$25K) were all approved.

Town Hall Committee November 25th:

Final SMP Report: [Click Here](#)

[Click Here](#) for the Facebook page

1. Work continues to complete the Construction Documents so at least four General Contractors can bid on the work. Time is running out for this

task to be completed.

2. The goal is to select a bidder to support a warrant article for the March 2015 election for the renovation and new connecting rectangular building.
3. Current design is estimated at around \$3.8 million, not counting the approximately \$350K we have spent so far.

School Board Budget Overview Meeting November 6th:

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

School Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#) (these are draft)

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

RCL Video: [Click Here](#)

1. Budgets do not include any impact from the Teachers contract as that is still being discussed.
2. Budget options were presented for a 2% and 0% increase. Note, 3 year average increase is 2.44%, 5 year average of 2.09% and 10 year average of 3.11%.
3. Major increases are: High School (\$108K), NH Retirement (\$55K), Fuel Oil (\$27K), OT Services (\$23K), Special Ed services (\$56K). It was noted that RJH and RES Administrator budgets account for only \$400K, which is a small % of the budget.
4. Parents raised concern about the negative impact of not having a dedicated Social Studies teacher.
5. Mr. Katkin (SAU Business Administrator) gave a stern warning about the demographic impacts for the school. Rye is trending for fewer "resident births", and it is increasingly difficult for young families to move to Rye, so fewer children are entering RES. New Castle has fewer 7th and 8th graders for Rye (less revenue for Rye). Older families with High School children can afford to move to Rye, this increases the tuition costs we send to Portsmouth.

School Board Budget Workshop November 10th:

School Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#) (these are draft)

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

1. Final budget approved the School Board on Nov. 18 is \$13,419,932, up from \$13,213,843 in 2014-2015, or 1.6%.
2. However, as the Teacher's Union Contract is up for renewal. Approximately \$4 million in teacher compensation is in the budget at no increase. Any increases negotiated will be a warrant article above and beyond the \$13,213,843.
3. Projected tax rate increase is \$.32 or approximately 4.8 percent. Tax rate is up more than the spending because revenues are down due to less tuition for Junior High students from New Castle (\$92,500) and greater than normal fund balance at the end of the 2013-2014 fiscal year, which enabled 2014 taxes to remain flat at \$6.73 (state and local portions).

School Board November 18th:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: Not available yet

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

RCL Video part 1: [Click Here](#) Video Part 2: [Click Here](#)

School PTA Common Core November 20th:

1. PTA hosted Keli Kilen, the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, to present on the Common Core. SAU Curriculum overviews: [Click Here](#)
2. Background and other insights to what Rye schools are doing to implement the new standards were discussed.
3. Workshops focused on Math [Click Here](#) to see online versions of some of the handouts.

Planning Board meeting: November 12th:

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

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

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Not Posted yet

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

1. 561 South Rd (Rye Farm): Continued to December 9 [More Detail](#)
2. Retaining wall at Wentworth-by-the-Sea Country Club approved. [More Detail](#)
3. 72 Lafayette Rd: Tear down and rebuild of former MB facility discussed [More Detail](#)
4. 464 Brackett Rd: Eleven lot subdivision discussed. [More Detail](#)
5. Lighting, Flood Plain and clerical corrections moved to public hearing on December 9 [More Detail](#)

PB Rules and Regulations November 18th:

RCL Video: [Click Here](#)

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

1. Aquifer protection district ordinance changes
2. Definitions of impervious and lighting already reviewed by Planning Board. Hearing scheduled for 12/9 on these and several others
3. Request from Joe Mills for ordinance on lobster trap storage tabled.
4. Other requests, including seasonal units, Harbor Rd. rezoning to Single Residence (former Saunders), medicinal marijuana zoning, Master plan, Septic issues.
5. Septic requirements for accessory apartments discussed.
6. Harbor Rd. rezoning (further discussion). Assessor wants change as property owner says value should be lower as it's in Business District
7. PB originally required submission of resident comments on zoning ordinances in electronic red-line form. Now, the PB says that draft electronic versions, facilitating such mark ups, will not be provided.

PB Technical Review Committee Nov. 25th:

Video of meeting: Not available

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. 23 Locke Rd.: Dividing motel lot into two. Moved to Dec. 9 meeting
2. 511 Wallis Rd. (Rand Lumber): amend plans for landscaping. Moved to Dec. 9 meeting

Planning Board December 9th Agenda:

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

1. 561 South Rd Final Major Subdivision and Conditional Use permits. [Click Here](#) to see information from residents
2. 23 Locke Rd - Divide into two lots
3. 511 Wallis Rd (former Rand Lumber) Amendment for landscaping
4. Public Hearing on Zoning Amendments:
Note: Now is the time for the public, these can't be changed at the Deliberative Town Meeting
5. 464 Brackett Rd 11 lot subdivision conceptual discussion
6. Rules and Regulations: Impervious definition and Aquifer

Zoning Board of Adjustment : November 5th:

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. 1136 Ocean Blvd. Petty's Expansion of overhangs and increase in height approved
2. 161 Clark Rd. Conversion of 480 sq. ft. garage to accessory apartment denied.
- 3 Extended discussion of application and checklist forms.

Zoning Board of Adjustment: December 3rd:

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. 1323 Ocean Blvd.: Administrative appeal for helipad
2. 36 Fairhill Ave.: Generator location
3. 36 Cable Rd.: Variances for expansions
4. 561 South Rd.: Driveway within the wetlands
5. 117 Wallis Rd.: Constructing a garage
6. 972 Washington Rd.: Accessory apartment
7. 1270 Ocean Blvd.: two houses on one lot

Conservation Commission Meeting November 20th:

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

Current Town Meeting Minutes: Not Available

RCL Meeting Notes (with elapsed video times) [Click Here](#)

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

1. 1090 Washington Rd: Permission was sought for solar panel installation at Independence Farm and cutting of trails. Matter tabled pending further detail. [More Detail](#)
2. 561 South Rd: Builder, D.D. Cook, offered to give the Town, through the Conservation Commission, approximately 20 acres of back land if it supports a wetlands crossing for a driveway in the fifth lot of a proposed subdivision. [More Detail](#)
3. Site walks were scheduled at 125 Wentworth Rd., 129 Wentworth Rd., 63 Harbor Rd. and 2316 Ocean Blvd. [More Detail](#)
4. Funding for the former Rand Lumber parcel: \$121,000 in Aquatic Resources Mitigation funding was officially awarded; an additional \$25,000 in "Moose Plate" funding was denied. [More Detail](#)

Beach Committee November 20th:

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

NOTE: The BOS has suspended the Beach Commission and appointed a "Beach Committee" final report was submitted at the November 24 BOS meeting. [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Not Available

Town Budgets: October 23, 2014 BOS Workshop

The BOS spends a full day reviewing the budget with the Department Heads. These are very informative discussions for any one interested in what the departments discuss with the BOS.

The RCL has cataloged all of the discussions so that you can find where in the video to skip to.

BOS Budget Workshop all day Video: [Click Here](#)

RCL Table to showing budget and video time stamps: [Click Here](#)

1. Maturing of Public Safety Building debt and initial debt from 2003 conservation warrant article are reducing 2015 principal repayments by \$670,000. Thus, despite increases in other areas, preliminary 2015 General Fund budget is down to \$8.0 million from \$8.4 million this year.
2. Although town debt is now at an historic low, Selectman Musselman acknowledges that the 2014 conservation bond, the Town Hall and Recreation Community Center would drive town debt levels to an historic high (11:35:25 a.m.).
3. The \$3 million 2014 conservation bond may all be drawn down and depleted in 2015 as several property acquisitions are on the horizon (1:35:50 p.m., 3:52:00 p.m.).
4. Recycling disposal budget was tabled due to uncertainty about which towns will remain in the Solid Waste Disposal District, which has retained Selectman Musselman's firm to assist in negotiations (10:29:27 a.m.).
5. Warrant article will be proposed to divert some Beach Permit revenues to Parsons Creek cleanup project (10:37:52 a.m.).

Demolition Review Committee November 19th

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

1. Demolition of Old South School House was authorized
2. The South Road School is available for anyone who can remove the building. [Click Here](#)

Heritage Commission Meeting November 6th:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Investigating developing a picture of what a renovated Town Hall will look like based on old photos.
2. Graveyard Project continues, one resident has inquired about the Brackett Rd. Massacre Site (Quiz - do you know what happened and where it is?)

Rye Energy Committee Meeting November 4th:

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

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. State Rep. David Borden met with the committee to discuss support for Winterizing the Adams Mobile Home Park in Rye.
2. Button-Up Workshop November 19th
3. Rye Energy December 2nd Agenda: [Click here](#)

Rye Recycling Education Committee November 19th & 25th

Meeting Notes and additional information. [Click Here](#)

Historic District Commission May 6th

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

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Mosquito Commission Meeting September 23rd:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: Nothing posted

Agenda: [Click Here](#) This is very informative

Vacancy on Commission: If interested call Nine six four - five five two three

Recreation Commission Meeting November 3rd:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: There was no August meeting

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

Rye Recreation does not post Draft Meeting notes for review

Capital Improvement Plan Committee October 29th:

Learn more about the Capital Improvement Plan: [Click Here](#)

To see the current CIP [Click Here](#)

1. The CIP Committee has completed the 2015-2020 plan. It includes "Total Capital Costs" of \$16.499 million over the period, of which:
 - \$0.57 million is Priority 1 (to secure life and property)
 - \$7.464 million is Priority 2 (to maintain the present standard of living)
 - \$8.465 million is Priority 3 (to improve the community)
2. The CIP expenditure for 2015 is planned to be \$1.609 million, excluding Town Hall, which would be bonded for \$3.8 million in that year so is not included in the total. Major projects are:
 - Town Hall (2015): \$3.800 million
 - Recreation Community Center (2016): \$2.475 million
 - Additional Conservation Bond (2017): \$3.000 million

-Fresh Water Treatment Plant (2018): \$5.500 million

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](#)

August 14th meeting with FEMA: Video [Click Here](#)

New FEMA maps: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [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 opinionRecent 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 from the October 27th discussion were: [Click Here](#)

- Rand Lumber Conversation land (Is the price unreasonably high and why would the town want to assume potential environmental risks)

- Town Hall - Public Hearing was to be the next night

- 561 South Rd (Rye Farm) and the last Planning Board meeting

- ZBA regulations, what drives them: the Master Plan or individuals interpretations.

Topics for the December 1st discussion may include the above and other topics residents raise for discussion.

Other Town Activity

How Good is our Library?

2012 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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