

# Rye Civic News

from the Rye Civic League

## February 2015

"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 \(click here\)](#)

*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:

February XX 6:30 pm RPL  
(meetings are normally the  
4th Wednesday of the  
month)

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

February 2nd: Recreation  
Commission 6:00 pm

February 3rd: Budget  
Committee Public Hearings  
- Precincts 6:30 pm

February 4th: School  
Deliberative meeting 6:30  
pm RJH

February 4th: Zoning  
Board of Adjustment 7:00  
pm

February 5th: Heritage  
Commission 6:30 pm

February 9th: Board of  
Selectmen 6:30 pm

February 10th: Sewer  
Commission 8:00 am

February 10th: Planning  
Board - RJH 7:00pm

February 19th:  
Conservation Commission

### The Future of Rye:

You set the future of Rye. Participate and be prepared:

[Click Here](#) to see the RCL Town and School Budget Analysis

[Click Here](#) to see the RCL Warrant Articles summary presentation

[Click Here](#) for warrant article supporting information (PYAT, Police  
officer....) and more.

Video: [Click Here](#) for the January 28th RCL presentation video (starts at  
5:33 and the budget is first).

### Town Deliberative Meeting January 31st:

[Click Here](#) for videos and short summary of the Town Meeting Part 1,  
Deliberative meeting. More information will be provided in a few weeks.  
RCL Video of Articles 1 to 15 [Click Here](#)

1. Was poorly attended
2. New rule by Moderator prevented people waiting to speak a chance to  
speak once a question was called.
3. Little discussion of 4.1M Town Hall, Pay As You Throw had the most  
discussion. Two Beach related articles also had much discussion
4. Two petitioned warrant articles were severely amended to render them  
meaningless and deny voters an up or down vote the intent of the article.

### Next Town Meeting Steps:

**School Deliberative Meeting Wednesday, February 4th 6:30 pm  
RJH**

- Budget, teachers union contract, land purchase and video  
streaming.

### Candidates Night February 16th 7 pm RPL

[Click Here](#) to see the candidates

[Click Here](#) for all town positions (appointed and alternates)

### Town Election March 10th RES

Absentee ballot request form not available yet

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

Note: Warrant article so that key Water District spending can be voted for  
at the polls at the Town Election.

### 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 Winter Programs: [Click Here](#)

7:00 pm

February 23rd: 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

Oct 23rd Dept Meeting  
minutes: [Click Here](#)

2015 Budget Summary  
from Dec. 10th: [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 Proposed  
2015-2016 School Budget.

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

**Rye Library Strategic  
Plan:**  
[Click Here](#)

**Rye Police Homepage**  
[Click Here](#)

**Assessment Data:** Online views of town lots [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 January 26th:**

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: not available yet.

1. Rockingham County indicates a projected tax rate increase of 1.9 percent. There was discussion of consolidation with the Fire Department and whether that would necessitate going away from County dispatching for Fire. [More detail.](#)

2. The mosquito control contract was awarded to Swamp, the low bidder. No marsh restoration will occur without the concurrence of the Conservation Commission. [More Detail](#)

3. The Town Hall construction contract was awarded to Hutter for \$3,389,600, contingent upon voter approval. [More Detail](#)

4. Complaint about high Comcast rates may lead to formation of a Committee, but there appears to be little that can be done. Contract is up for renewal in January 2016. [More Detail](#)

5. A legal opinion relating to certain petitioned warrant articles will not be released as it is "evolving," based on discussions with the Town Attorney after he apparently issued an initial written opinion. [More Detail](#)

6. The Heisey lot unmerger request (near Rye Harbor) was granted, subject to certain conditions. [More Detail](#)

## **Board of Selectmen January 12th:**

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. A hearing was held on the Heisey lot unmerger request involving two parcels on Harbor Rd. No decision was reached. The discussion focused on whether or not the lots had separate septic systems. [More Detail](#)

2. The final report on the Beach Parking Study was presented. Discussion focused on whether the loss of 140 parking spaces was accurate, and whether there were only about 7 driveways needing parking restrictions. [More Detail](#)

3. Residents question whether the amendment to Beach Permit revenue fund to permit water quality testing is insufficiently broad (perhaps should allow expenditure for any beach-related) and impact on taxes of less revenue going to the General Fund. [More Detail](#)

4. Fire Department consolidation discussions will continue with a joint meeting including the Board of Selectmen and Portsmouth Fire Commissioners. [More Detail](#)

## **Board of Selectmen January 7th, 8th & 20th:**

Video Recording January 7th: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording January 8th: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording January 20th: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes Jan 7th: [Click Here](#) January 8th: [Click Here](#)

1. Jan 7th meeting approved the Collective Bargaining agreement with the Firefighters. Rye is paying \$2,500 per Firefighter over the dispute over whether additional shifts should have been available. This settlement payment is separate from the Firefighters contract (article 10)

## **Budget Committee Public Hearings Jan 14th & 15th:**

School Video Recording Jan 14th: From the RCL [Click Here](#)

RCL Jan. 14th School Meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Video Recording Jan 15th: [Click Here](#)

RCL Jan. 15th Town meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

November 13th work session meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Facebook: [Click Here](#)

## Other Helpful Links:

Live Free or Die Alliance

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

RCL Town and School Budget Analysis: [Click Here](#)

Town Budget Worksheet: [Click Here](#)

Detailed MS-7 (budget detail): [Click Here](#)

### **January 14th - Budget Committee School Board Hearing:**

1. Agreement has been reached with the teachers union. Improvements on health care costs, but wages went up 2.4 to 3.5 percent. [More Detail](#)
2. A \$10,000 warrant article to provide funds for a deposit on land behind the Junior High School was approved unanimously. The plan is to finance the acquisition entirely with donations and another 1.5 acres will be donated. [More Detail](#)
3. A \$3000 petitioned warrant article to provide video streaming of School Board and other meetings at the Junior High was rejected 7-1 even after data on the actual \$1200 and \$800 costs of installing similar systems at the Library and Town Hall was deemed inconclusive to the likely cost at the Junior High School. [More Detail](#)
4. Several Budget Committee members asserted that the budgeted \$3.44 per gallon heating oil price and projected usage 30 percent above the 2010-2013 average needed no adjustment notwithstanding the current price of around \$2.50 per gallon and a customary price lock in July of this year. [More Detail](#)
5. Budget Committee member Doug Abrams left after a resident asserted that the Budget Committee had achieved only \$500 in reductions and never listens to the public. He is up for re-election. [More Detail](#)

### **January 15th Budget Committee Town Hearing:**

1. Increase to Town Clerk/Tax Collector budget for third full-time employee was unanimously recommended. [More Detail](#)
2. Addition of \$25,000 to the capital outlay budget to permit Route 1A parking space striping was recommended 7-1. [More Detail](#)
3. Town Hall project for \$4.1 million was unanimously recommended. [More Detail](#)
4. Firefighters union contract was unanimously recommended. The Town already paid \$20,000 to settle grievance over unfilled shifts. [More Detail](#)
5. The \$3000 Master Plan Expendable Trust petitioned warrant article was not recommended after it was asserted that a portion was unlawful. [More Detail](#)

### **Town Hall Committee January 7th:**

Final SMP Report: [Click Here](#)

[Click Here](#) for the Facebook page

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Not available

1. Low bidder was selected, 12% contingency brings the bond amount to \$4.1M.

### **School Board Budget Overview:**

Full Proposed Budget: [Click Here](#) RCL Budget Analysis: [Click Here](#)

School Town Meeting part 1 Deliberative: February 4th 6:30 pm RJH

To See sections, click on the title:

Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction section: [Click Here](#)

[RES Principal Overview](#), [RJH Principal Overview](#), [Executive Summary](#), [What has changed overview](#), [Budget Allocation chart](#), [Staffing costs and changes](#), [Maintenance Objectives](#), [Enrollment Projections](#)

1. \$568,911 more will be needed to be raised through property taxes. \$206,089 (budget increase) + \$241,322 (reduced surplus carry forward) + \$92,500 (fewer RJH New Castle students) + \$29,000 (reduced Medicaid reimbursement)
2. 5th Grade position will be eliminated. The current two non-budgeted Special Education positions, plus two additional Special Education

positions are being added. Special Ed budget is 9.29% of the total school budget.

3. PHS per student tuition is estimated to increase again. Two year increase of 11%.
4. Rye funds 48.34% of the SAU50 budget
5. Maintenance Fund will be getting \$5,000 less than normal.
6. Budget numbers do not include the current teachers union contract under discussion, that is separate warrant article.

### **School Board January Meeting Minutes:**

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

Town Meeting Minutes: January 7 [Click Here](#), January 12th [Click Here](#),

January 14th [Click Here](#) January 28th - not available

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

No summary available at this time.

### **Planning Board meeting: January 13th:**

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

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

Video Recording: Did not get recorded

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. 561 South Rd - major 5 lot subdivision moved to Feb. 10 meeting
2. 1191 Ocean Blvd. - final minor subdivision plan - change in use permit to add a second business to an existing business location. Unanimously approved
3. 16 Odiome Dr. - amendment to minor site development and condo conversion - add 8' x 8' storage Shed - unanimously approved
4. Zoning Amendments - Public Hearing
  - a. signs and outdoor advertising
  - b. impervious coverage
  - c. aquifer and wellhead district
  - d. medical marijuana facilities
5. Old Business - 4 lot subdivision at former Saunders Restaurant on Harbor Rd.

### **Planning Board February 10th Agenda: RJH**

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

1. 501 Washington Rd. Lot line adjustment for land being donated and acquired (from outside funding) for RJH
2. 60 Wentworth Rd.: Lot line adjustment Map 24 Lot 61-26 and 61-67
3. 561 South Rd Final Major Subdivision and Conditional Use permits. [Click Here](#) to see information from residents
4. 464 Bracket Rd. 9 lot subdivision

### **Zoning Board of Adjustment : January 7th:**

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. Helicopters at Petey;'s restaurant rehearing request - denied 4-1
2. 561 South Rd wetlands crossing Rd. denied 4-1
3. 117 Wallis Rd - build garage with 2nd Floor bedroom - approved 5-0
4. 1270 Ocean Blvd. - demo one building and replace with two - approved 5-0
5. 40 Old Beach Rd - new generator with setback issues - approved 5-0
6. rest of items moved to Jan. 21 or Feb. meeting

### **Zoning Board of Adjustment : January 21st:**

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

### **Zoning Board of Adjustment: February 4th:**

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. 972 Washington Rd. allow accessory apartment
2. 511 Wallis Rd. Allowing a single family home and a driveway to connect to Wallis, not the new road to the luxury condos.
3. 26 Ordiorne Rd.: Administrative Appeal and request for a variance for steps and a landing

### **Conservation Commission Meeting January 15th:**

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. Church Rd subdivision - Site walk scheduled
2. Wentworth Rd. property discussed
3. Berry's Brook property off of Pioneer Rd discussion of survey

### **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" whose final report was submitted at the November 24 BOS meeting. [Click Here](#) Committee is not currently meeting.

NOTE: Selectmen have approved a warrant article that would dissolve the Beach Commission, to be voted on March 10th.

### **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 January 8th:**

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Budget Committee reduced the budget by \$500
2. Graveyard project continues to make progress
3. Will host Peter Marchand for an education discussion on Town Hall
4. Progress continues to find Grant money to help with the cost of Town Hall.

### **Rye Energy Committee Meeting January 6th:**

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

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Five proposals were received for the Public Safety building energy audit.
2. 40 people attended the Button Up program.

### **Rye Recycling Education Committee January 5th**

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

February 3rd Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. There will be a citizens warrant article for the SMART (Save Money and Reduce Trash) program that will have residents purchase bags that are required for the trash compactor at the Transfer station. See the Waste Zero presentation for Rye. [Click Here](#)
2. The food composting program was discussed and there will not be a warrant article for funding. This program shifts considerable amount of weight to composting from the landfill. See Mr. Fox video [click here](#)

### **Historic District Commission May 6th**

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



Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

### **Mosquito Commission Meeting January 5th:**

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

1. Commission is recommending a different outsourced contractor for this year. Selectmen are currently reviewing both bids (see January 26th BOS for discussion).

### **Recreation Commission Meeting January 5th:**

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

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

### **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:

\$ .57 million is Category 1 (to secure life and property)

\$7.464 million is Category 2 (to maintain the present standard of living)

\$8.465 million is Category 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](#)

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 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.

Last meeting, these and more topics were discussed:

- Warrant Articles

-

### **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](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

### [Forward email](#)



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