

# Rye Civic News

from the Rye Civic League

## January 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.*

**RCL Presentation:**  
January 28th, Budget  
Analysis and Warrant  
Article overview 7:00  
pm Rye Library

**Next RCL Meeting:**  
January 22nd 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

**January 5th:** Recreation  
Commission 6:00 pm

**January 6th:** Rye Energy  
6:30pm.

**January 7th:** Town Hall  
Committee 6:30pm RPL

**January 7th:** Zoning Board  
of Adjustment 7:00 pm

**January 7th:** School Board  
Special meeting 5:00pm

**January 8th:** Board of  
Selectman Budget Meeting  
4:30pm

**January 8th:** Heritage  
Commission 6:30pm

### The Future of Rye:

You set the future of Rye by participating in the **Deliberative Town Meeting (Saturday, January 31st, 9 am RJH and School Deliberative School Town Meeting Wednesday, February 4th 6:30pm RJH)** and voting in the **Town Election (March 10th)**. Local democracy works best when taxpayers chose to invest the time to be educated and participate at the Deliberative discussions and cast votes at the town election.

**RCL Budget Overview and Warrant Article Presentation:** January 28th 7 pm at RPL. The RCL will summarize the Town and School budgets and provide background information on town and petitioned warrant articles. Click on the topic for Warrant Article supporting information on:

Town Hall, [Additional Police Officer](#), [Pay as You Throw Program](#), [NH Rebellion State wide petition](#)

*Note: If you are submitting a petitioned warrant article please provide any supporting information to the RCL so we can post on [Ryecivicleague.org](http://Ryecivicleague.org)*

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

Candidates must file to run January 21st to January 30th (5pm)  
**2015 Warrant Articles:** January 13th 4:30 PM deadline, 4:00 pm at the SAU for School warrant articles. January 14th (school) and 15th (town) Budget Committee discussion of warrant articles with any costs.

### General Announcements:

**School Survey on Curriculum:** [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](#)

**561 South Rd (Rye Farm) and Zoning Ammendments:** Planning Board meeting (1-13) will be at RJH. See 561 South Rd. 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 December 22nd:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: not available yet.

1. Recycling Education Committee continues to push pay-as-you-throw warrant article. [More Detail](#) See [Zero Waste Presentation](#)

2. Town will look at turning on Portsmouth Public Media TV (channel 98) in Rye. First year cost will be zero, but PPMtv will ask for \$5 per household in subsequent years. Selectmen propose a 2016 warrant article after the pilot. [More Detail](#)

3. Rob Doyle is selected as Clerk of the Works and Owners

**January 12th:** Board of Selectmen 6:30 pm

**January 13th:** Planning Board - RJH 7:00pm

**January 14th:** School Budget Public Hearing 6:30 PM RJH

**January 15th:** Budget Committee Public Hearing

**January 15th:** Conservation Commission 7:00 pm

**January 26th:** Board of Selectmen 6:30pm

**January 28th:** RCL Budget and Warrant Article overview

**January 31st:** Deliberative Town Meeting 9:00 AM RJH

## 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](#)

Representative, contingent on approval of the Town Hall project. Town Hall Committee's role to be restricted to choice of colors, textures and materials. [More Detail](#)

4. Selectmen continue to work on fireworks ordinance. [More Detail](#)

5. Selectmen agree to add \$25,000 to the budget for striping of parking spaces on Route 1A, however no commitment to do so has yet been made. [More Detail](#)

6. Selectmen adopt policy prohibiting dogs in public buildings. [More Detail](#)

## **Board of Selectmen December 8th:**

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Selectmen approve, 2-1, a resident's request to solicit petitioned warrant articles at the Recycling Center. Selectman Mills voted no after insisting on knowing the contents beforehand. [More Detail](#)

2. New Town Flag was awarded to the designer, former Rye Junior High School student William Gerrish. [More Detail](#)

3. Utility pole request on Harbor Rd. leads to vigorous discussion as neighbors accuse Attorney Tim Phoenix of making misrepresentations. [More Detail](#)

4. The Town will pay for replacement of the roof at the Parsonage Apartments rather than the Housing Partnership which collects far more in rent than it pays to the Town as owner. [More Detail](#)

5. Selectmen comment about proposed "pay-as-you-throw" petitioned warrant article and the pilot food recycling program. [More Detail](#) [Waste Zero Presentation](#)

6. Budget will be provided to permit striping of parking spaces along Ocean Blvd., allowing the Town to do so in 2015 if it so decides. [More Detail](#)

7. Warrant article for additional police officer was recommended 2-1. [More Detail](#) [Town comparison table](#)

8. Warrant article to dissolve the Beach Commission will be placed on the ballot. [More Detail](#)

## **Budget Committee Work Session December 10th:**

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

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

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

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

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

2015 Budget Summary: [Click Here](#)

## **Town Hall Committee December 3rd:**

Final SMP Report: [Click Here](#)

[Click Here](#) for the Facebook page

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Full Meeting Room (i.e. Great Hall) capacity of 247 persons will be supported by the bathrooms (including two bathrooms on the third floor, below the belfry) and egress capacity, but not the cooling or septic systems that have been designed for 150 persons. Selectman Musselman asserts that these issues are not problems. [More Detail](#)

2. The Committee agrees that the structural engineer did not respond adequately to a question from the Committee about whether the existing granite block foundation would support the side loads from the proposed steel columns to be added to the existing Town Hall. [More Detail](#)

3. The Committee authorized the architect to solicit bids for the project based on the existing specifications and drawings as modified at the meeting. Victor Azzi abstained, expressing concerns over structural and architectural issues. The others voted in favor. [More Detail](#)

**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](#)Facebook: [Click Here](#)**Other Helpful Links:**[Live Free or Die Alliance](#)**School Board Budget Overview:**Full Proposed Budget: [Click Here](#)

To See sections, click on the title:

Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction section: [Click Here](#)Survey on this subject: [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 then normal.

6. Budget numbers do not include the current teachers union contract under discussion. This will be a shown as a separate warrant article if an agreement is reached in time.

**School Board December 17th:**Learn more about the Rye Schools: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Not available yet

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

No summary available at this time.

**Planning Board meeting: December 9th:**Learn more about the Planning Board: [Click Here](#)New FEMA maps have been posted: [Click Here](#)Video Recording: [Click Here](#)Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)RCL Meeting Notes with Time stamps: [Click Here](#)

1. 561 South Rd continued to the January meeting

2. 23 Locke Rd.: Subdivide into two lots, will be evaluated (02:31)

3. 511 Wallis Rd. Adding stonewalls and landscaping. Maybe coming back with a request for a generator. (51:10)

4. Zoning Amendments discussed (1:10:10)

5. Flood plain and zoning amendments moved to warrant

6. 464 Bracket Rd. 11 lot sub-division (1:36:00)

7. RJH acquiring 3 acres of adjacent land (2:03:00)

**Planning Board January 13th Agenda: At RJH**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. 1191 Ocean Blvd Minor Site Development to allow the "Surf Shack" to also operate at the location where the "Beach Hut" is.

3. 16 Ordiome Drive to add a shed on the property

4. Zoning Amendments

a) Allow LED lighting for signs

b) Replace "impermeable" with "impervious" and tighten the definition of "impervious".

c) Changes to Aquifer zoning wording

d) Prohibit Medical Marijuana establishments from being too close to residential zone or mobile home park

**Zoning Board of Adjustment : December 3rd:**

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

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

Recorded Video: At RJH so RCL recorded the meeting:

Video part 1 [Click Here](#) (1, 2 & 3 below)

Video part 2 [Click Here](#) (4 below)

1. Helipad for Petey's restaurant denied 4-1 (11:08)
2. Generator at 36 Fairhill approved (1:44:30)
3. Structure within setback at 36 Cable approve (1:56:24)
4. Wetlands crossing for Rye Farm (561 South Rd.) subdivision denied 5-0. (0:15)
5. Remaining agenda continued to January meeting

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

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. 117 Wallis Rd.: Construction of a garage and bedroom
2. 1270 Ocean Blvd.: Two houses on one lot
3. 40 Old Beach Rd.: Generator Installation
4. 972 Washington Rd.: Allow an accessory apartment on the second floor
5. 17 Perkins Rd.: Non-conforming building variances
6. 129 Wentworth Rd.: Replace garage with an addition that will include an accessory apartment
7. 1323 Ocean Blvd.: Request for a rehearing (Public Hearing closed)  
Petey's helipad
8. 561 South Rd. "Rye Farm" Request for a rehearing (Public Hearing closed)

### **Conservation Commission Meeting December 18th:**

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. Whitehorse Farms - installing a new driveway(00:53)
2. Discussion of donated properties (19:24)
3. Appledore Ave: Drainage problems discussed (24:30)
4. Goss Farm discussion (37:00)

### **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 December 4th:**

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

### **Rye Energy Committee Meeting December 2nd:**

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 December 17th**

Meeting Notes and additional information. [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 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 December 1st:**

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](#)

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:

- Pay as You Throw warrant article
- Rye Little League lights for the field
- Rye field turf and the Old police station lot
- Proposed warrant articles

### **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](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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