

Rye Civic News July 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

Please share with your Rye friends & neighbors [Citizens' Handbook \(click here\)](#)
[RCL Facebook Page](#)

Next RCL

Meeting:

July 26th RPL
6:30 pm

Meetings

(at Town Hall unless indicated)

July 5th:

Zoning Board of Adjustment
7:00pm

July 5th: Rye

Water District
9:00am 60
Sagamore R.

July 6th:

Heritage Commission
6:30pm.

July 10th:

Recreation Commission Meeting
6:00pm.

July 10th:

Board of Selectmen
6:30pm

July 11th:

Sewer Commission
8:00am RBVD

July 11th

Planning Board 7:00 pm
RJH

July 13th:

Budget Committee
6:00pm.

July 18th:

Mosquito Control
5:00pm.

Update: An Invitation to membership in the Rye Civic League

Thank You for all of you who made contributions, but it is still an extremely small fraction of the people who read the Civic News (full text from last month is at the bottom).

Get Involved: Monthly RCL meeting and Public Forum last Wednesday of the month 6:30pm RPL.

The Rye Civic League is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and such organizations are only as good as their membership base whether that is through paid dues, gifts in kind and active participation. What RCL really needs at this time, in addition to regular \$12 dues, are more active members who can assist with RCL tasks relating to the writing of the Civic News and other activities.

- Summarize a town meeting for the Civic News
- Editing the Civic News content
- Helping with Candidates Night and other civic events
- Social Media savvy person
- Website and help to fulfill our "digital transformation" vision. We envision a more dynamic capture of meeting summaries, a much better website and more dynamic communication.

June Highlights:

1. RJH 8th Grade Math teacher resigned and Science teacher moved to a new RJH STEM position. New 8th Grade Math and Science teachers hired, and a new Music teacher. See note from RJH [Click Here](#)
2. Harbor Road bridge has weight restrictions and needs maintenance. See BOS notes and engineering report [Click Here](#)
3. Town will apply for LCHIP funds for basic maintenance for the Town Hall building
4. Rye Police strictly monitoring alcohol on the town beaches Herald Story [Click Here](#)
5. 421 South Rd Development variances at the July 5th ZBA and June 11th Planning Board agenda.
6. Water issues: Eversource buying Aquarion Water [Click Here](#). RWD looking for additional water source. Hampton opening a new well.
7. Rye won't sign Rye-New Castle agreement for sidewalk on a fixed bridge.
8. Invasive species "Japanese knot weed" is at the Transfer Station and can be seen many places across Rye now.
9. Sanders Poynt still not restored. See Herald story [Click Here](#)
10. Town-wide revaluation results will be available shortly. Median single family home expected to increase 16%.

General Announcements:

1. State Reps Murray and Messmer meeting voters July 13th 6pm to 8pm at RPL
2. 421 South Rod at the ZBA July 5th for variances
3. Resident is interested in the Green Lawn program: [Click Here](#)
4. Open Appointed and Alternate Positions: [Click Here](#)
Planning Board, Historic District and Heritage Commission Alternates, Members for Recreation, Energy, Heritage and Recycling,
5. Water Restriction: No irrigation between 8am and 6pm
6. **Rye Recreation Senior Program:** 2016-2017 Active, Alive and over 55 [Click Here](#)
7. **Rye Recreation Summer Programs Registration (new):** [Click here](#)
8. **Assessment Data:** Online views of town lots [Click Here](#)
9. **GIS Mapping** Software Presentation Video: [Click Here](#)
10. Rye Family in need information and request for help. [Click Here](#)

Board of Selectmen Meeting June 26th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town Meeting minutes: Not Available

July 19th:
School Board
Retreat:
8:30am RPL

July 20th:
Conservation
Commission
7:00pm.

July 24th:
Board of
Selectmen
Meeting
6:30pm.

July 27th:
CIP 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

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. Request for no parking areas adjacent to new townhouses near Petey's Restaurant leads to discussion of congestion problems in the area. [More Detail](#)
2. A number of abatements were granted. Last year's requests have now all been addressed, with no appeals to the BTLA pending. [More Detail](#)
3. The initial revaluation results are almost ready. Rye property values have been increasing rapidly, and the assessment of the median single family home will be up about 16 percent. [More Detail](#)
4. Responses to the RFP to scan Town Hall documents are due in early July. [More Detail](#)
5. A wage study is being done of 19 non-union town employees. [More Detail](#)
6. The Town Hall condition assessment proposed cannot be done out of this year's budget, according to the Town Attorney. [More Detail](#)

Board of Selectmen Meeting June 19th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)
Draft Town Meeting minutes: Not Posted yet
RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. The Selectmen rejected the Rye/New Castle Bridge Maintenance Agreement and will not sign it as the Town has no equipment with which to perform the required snow removal from the bridge sidewalk. [More Detail](#)
2. The Selectmen voted to submit an LCHIP application for a grant for Town Hall painting, related repairs, and a condition assessment. Final approval of grant acceptance cannot occur until after 2018 Town Meeting, given uncertainty as to whether or not voters may approve tear down and rebuild of Town Hall. [More Detail](#)

Board of Selectmen Meeting June 12th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)
Draft Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)
RCL Meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

1. The Seacoast Greenway bike trail project is picking up steam as DOT and Pan Am are now closer to agreeing to the price for the former Eastern Railroad right-of-way. Several residents and the Selectmen appear to support. Only ¼ mile would be in Rye. [More Detail](#)
2. Reduced weight limits, that will seriously curtail access by cement and rock trucks, were adopted for the Harbor Rd. Bridge. While \$100,000 will likely be spent this year and next to refurbish the bridge, those expenditures would not increase the weight limits and are a stop gap until 2028 when grant funds would be available to pay 80 percent of the bridge replacement cost of \$300,000. [More Detail](#)
3. A firm will be hired to assist in further tightening of the septic ordinance with the possibility of inspections being required upon property transfer, and high tech systems being required in critical areas. [More Detail](#)
4. The decision on seeking a grant for painting the Town Hall exterior was deferred after concerns were raised with a condition that would prevent the Town Hall from being demolished. [More Detail](#)

School Board June 26th Meeting 3 new RJH Teachers:

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)
RCL Video of School Board Meeting: [Click Here](#)
Draft School Board Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)
See Note from RJH to Parents and Guardians: [Click Here](#)

1. Nomination of (3) new teaching positions: Music, Math and Science by Marie Soucy
2. Music (.8 time position): Mr. Duy Bui
 - Unanimous choice by search committee
 - No prior teaching experience
 - No NH teaching certification (in process)
 - Interned at RES last year
3. 8th Grade Science (full time position): Chandra Eves
 - Unanimous choice by search committee
 - Previously worked at York, ME as long-term sub and para professional
 - Prior experience teaching US History
 - No NH certification (in process), has ME certification
4. 8th grade Math (full time position): Kaci Ferraro
 - Unanimous choice by search committee

Transfer Station and Recycling Flyer: [Click Here.](#)

- Previously worked at Noble School (S.Berwick)
- No NH certification (in process), has ME certification

School Building Feasibility June 15th Meeting:

Recorded Video; [Click Here](#)

Draft School Board Meeting Minutes: Not available

RCL Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. School Board member Paula Tsetsilas and Budget Committee member and former School Board member Peggy Balboni were elected Co-Chairmen. [More Detail](#)
2. A disagreement arose between parents on the committee and Selectman and Member Craig Musselman on whether this is a school or town committee, and on the importance of meeting possible town needs vs. maintaining educational quality. [More Detail](#)
3. Research tasks were assigned, including enrollment data, site plans of the two schools, and data on other SAU 50 school enrollments and space use. [More Detail](#)

School Board June 14th 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)

RCL Video of School Board Meeting; [Click Here](#)

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

1. Business Administration : Almost all summer maintenance has been scheduled. Inspection found 58 electrical issues (about half are code violations) - in process of getting estimate of work, but estimates \$25K at minimum.
2. Water bring tested for lead, copper and PFCs - 4 to 6 weeks for results at about \$4K cost
3. Superintendent: Tracy Dumais has been named as the new assistant to the superintendent. Transition from previous assistant is underway
4. STAR testing report review . No conclusive info from longitudinal report as some students took after 5/31 deadline.
5. Discussion of the application of the data in day to day administration of schools. Per Ms. Killen, Rye scores better than typical schools utilizing STAR testing. Administrator states they are not overly reliant on STAR scores to assess individual student performance
6. Nomination of Kaitlyn O'Neill as Special Education teacher at RES and RJH. To handle intensive special needs cases from RES to RJH. Unanimous selection by interview committee. Degree from UNH in Special Ed with specialization in autism. Prior experience in Newmarket, Newington and Birchtree Center
7. 3 New Positions for RJH. Music teacher search coming to conclusion after in-class assessment of candidates. Science position interviews conducted 6/14. Math position interviews next week
8. School Use Feasibility Committee. Two parent representatives are Mark Sedam (RJH) and Katherine Errecart (RES). First meeting held at town hall 6/15 @ 8am. Ms. Tsetsilas shared some data she had gathered on declining school populations. Concerns expressed about keeping the committee focused on facts and not preconceived notions.

Rye Districts Information:

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

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

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

Rye Water District June 7th:

Draft Water District Meeting Minutes: [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. The Pump House was struck by lightning and received damage.
2. Town of Hampton notified Rye Water that Acquirion has requested a public hearing for large ground water withdrawal for a new well. Letter was not included with the posted meeting minutes.
3. NH DES Waiver request for chemical monitoring (SOC's) was received. This is for the Wellhead Protection Area.
4. Garland Well design work was discussed.
5. Discussion of the process for searching for an additional water source for the district.

Town Budgets
Budget
Analysis:
[Click Here](#)

Town Budget
Worksheet:
[Click Here.](#)

MS-7 Reporting
document:
[Click Here](#)

Rye Water District Budget:
[Click Here.](#)

Rye Beach Budget:
[Click Here.](#)
RBVD
Treasurer's
Report.
[Click Here](#)

Jenness Beach Budget:
[Click Here](#)

School Budget:
Here is a link to
the Proposed
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

Cancer Cluster & Governor's Coakley Landfill Taskforce:

Community Facebook page: [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](#)

DHHS Website: [Click Here](#)

DHHS May 11, 2017 Presentation: [Click Here](#)

DHHS May 11, 2017 additional handout: [Click Here](#)

DHHS April 30, 2107 Survey Summary report: [Click Here](#)

DHHS: Seacoast Cancer Rates 2005 to 2014: [Click Here](#)

1. With such a small response rate, the chances of finding a single culprit was extremely small.
2. A much broader and comprehensive effort will be required to help lower cancer rates. Rep. Messmer is creating a Seacoast Cancer Think Tank.

Planning Board meeting: June 13th:

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

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

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

1. Four applications continued to July 11th meeting
 2. Master Plan update with Julie LaBranche, Rockingham Planning Commission
- Review of changes - see town web site for minutes of extensive discussion

LRP Public Meeting (Master Plan)

NO CHANGES, MEETINGS, UPDATES SINCE THE OCTOBER 2016 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 & Regulations Committee & Zoning Amendments June 27th:

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Draft Meeting Minutes: not posted

Planning discussion about potential 2018 zoning amendments

1. July 2018 EPA MSR storm water rules will take effect. Land Development Regulations will need to be reviewed/ updated for post construction storm water standards
2. Discussion of potential new sub-committee for Wetlands surface waters ordinance changes
3. Investigate wellhead and aquifer protection for Aquarion well 5A on Central Road
4. Examine inconsistencies in impervious coverage % limits between districts
5. Look at "free boarding", adding water level clearance above FEMA base flood level in flood zones. Purpose: climate change resiliency and to help town get back on Community Rating System which gives discounts on flood insurance.
6. Final updated FEMA flood maps to come out this year, after a resident disputed and lost, delaying them. Up for town adoption in 2018.
7. Assorted house keeping changes along with parking space size to also be considered.

Planning Board July 11th Agenda:

Agenda for meeting: [Click Here](#)

1. 0 Airfield Drive - Major Subdivision. Determination of Completeness
2. Lafayette Rd. Tax Map 10 Lot 4 Eversource expansion of substation building. Determination of Completeness
3. 60 Wentworth Rd, WBTSCC Install the 90' Golf Club netting
4. 0 Airfield Drive. Lot Line Adjustment
5. Lafayette Rd. Tax Map 10 Lot 4 expanding building
6. Stephen Carter requesting to take one of the two open Alternative spots

Zoning Board of Adjustment: June 21st:

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town meeting minutes: Not Posted

RCL meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

Zoning Board of Adjustment: June 7th:

Recorded Video: Meeting was at the RJH

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

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

1. O Big Rock Road - Rehearing on denial of variances Denied: 5-0
- 2./3 - 740 Washington Road - Administrative appeal from Building Inspector notice of violation. An amended Notice of Decision was approved 5-0.
4. 421 South Road - Major subdivision. Request special exception to construct a wetlands driveway crossing. Extensive public and developer input and board discussion. Denied 4-1

Zoning Board of Adjustment: July 5th Agenda:

[Click Here](#) for agenda

1. 421 South Rd. Special Exception Notice of Decision for driveway crossing wetlands
2. 421 South Rd. Variance Notice of Decision for driveway crossing wetlands
3. 11 Fairhill Ave. Variances for setback
4. 30 LeMer Drive Variances for setback for demolition and new building
5. 620 Wallis Rd. Variances for shed setback
6. 531 Bracket Rd. Variance to allow an 8ft fence
7. 11 Surf Lane Variances for setback for expansion of an already non-conforming building
8. 780 Ocean Blvd. Variance for solar array
9. 784 Ocean Blvd. Variances for setback for expanded deck
10. 2 West Rd. Variance for porch expansion that is already within the setback
11. 740 Washington Rd. Rehearing and reconsideration request (public hearing will be closed).

Conservation Commission (CC) June 15th:

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

Conservation Land Maps: [Click Here](#)

Wetlands Map [Click Here](#)

Town Forest map: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Town Draft Meeting minutes: Not available

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

1. Discussion with Dragon Mosquito Control, returning as contractor, on their work monitoring and controlling mosquitos
2. Discussion with UNH Cooperative Forest Extension regarding state wide project to update the state GRANIT GIS system for town owned forests and conservation lands greater than 10 acres. Assistance to be provided by CC in identifying the properties, restrictions, etc..
3. Discussion of letter from builder for 20 Huntervale Ave which was denied access (June 1st) to adjacent conservation land to excavate and pour concrete for a garage 3' from conservation land, having been granted a variance from the ZBA to build in setback.
4. Discussion of potential conservation bond planning for the CIP. Consensus was that such a new bond should be included for 2018 in CIP.

Recreation Commission Meeting June 5th:

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](#)

No Recorded Video:

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

1. Discussed replacing the Soccer snack shacks with containers as the shacks are falling apart.
2. Field drainage was discussed
3. Summer Intern Ryan Slaven was introduced
4. Gregg Mikolaities provided a summary of the Rye Recreation area and the Planning documents that should be updated. The 2000 Field plans and septic plans were reviewed.
5. Discussion of building a storage facility \$150,000 and updating the bathrooms \$50,000 for the next Capital Improvements Plan

Heritage Commission Meetings June 1, 3 and 7th.

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

Recorded Videos: June 1st: [Click Here](#) June 3rd: [Click Here](#) June 7th: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town Meeting minutes: June 1st: [Click Here](#) June 3rd [Click Here](#)

June 7th: Not available

1. 6-1-17 The meeting focused discussion on the exterior condition of Town Hall. The intent of the Heritage Commission expressed at the meeting is to maintain and repair the exterior of the building, in order to keep it from further deterioration while the town makes a decision on the future use of the building. There was discussion on submitting the L-Chip Grant application, which is due by June 23rd.
2. 6-3-17 A work group met to draft the LCHIP application for grant for the exterior of Town Hall. The intent of the Heritage Commission is to preclude further deterioration of the building, as it may remain a town hall or be re-purposed for a different use in the future.

Mosquito Commission Meeting June 20th:

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](#)

May meeting minutes not yet posted.

2. Discussed resident complaint about high tick activity but this is not under this commission's jurisdiction.

Rye Energy Committee Meeting: June 6th:

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

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

1. [Energize 360](#) is the consortium from five other seacoast communities to help residents with energy efficiency events were well attended.
2. ReVision Energy will donate a solar panel and hardware for each Rye residential installation.
3. Town municipal energy report is almost included
4. No July meeting
5. There are 3 Vacancies for this committe

Rye Recycling Education Committee May 16th

Video Recording: Not available

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

Openings for three new members.

1. Review of the RJH recycling program
2. Discussion of educating about food composting services (Mr. Fox) at the Library and selling compost buckets.
3. Transfer Station Survey: [Click Here](#)

Library Board of Trustees June 12th:

Trustee Home Page: [Click Here](#)

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

1. A Library article by Director Richmond was cited in a national library journal
2. Grounds maintenance projects are progressing
3. Piscataqua Region History video: [Click Here](#)

Sewer Commission Meeting June 13th

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

1. Sump Pump discovered in manhole at the corner for Foss Circle and old Beach Road.
2. Operation maintenance plan provided.

Historic District Commission June 8th Meeting

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town Meeting Minutes: Not Available

1. Hearing on barn renovation at 2 Lang Road. Approved.

Capital Improvement Plan May 11th:

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

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

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Beach Committee June 29th:

Facebook Page [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

1. Charge car counting was discussed.
2. Concern over stand up paddle business operating in the harbor with commercial and recreational boats dangerous in the AM hours. Chief Walsh will contact harbor master or state.
3. Cooking on the beach gas and coal grills being used. Chief Walsh says this can only do so with permit issued by FD and may only be issued to Rye residents.
4. Trash pick up-suggests once again the state pick up on town beaches since they're already making the rounds at state beaches Jenness and Wallis. Chief Walsh says it's the town's responsibility and that the State assists with grading. Committee noted that there is still a lot of Seaweed if they are grading.
5. Kiosk meters where are we? Chief Walsh had nothing concrete for an update.
6. Dog bites this year, Chief Walsh says dog advocates are policing.
7. Police Department checking at night for drug users. So far no needles found.

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:

1. Camden Green Lawn Program: [Click Here](#)

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.

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](#)

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 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. Town Hall and the Board of Selectmen
2. South Road stressing the land
3. Maine town that posts where the Chemical Free lawns are.

Other Town Activity

How Good is our Library?

2016 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

An Invitation to membership in the Rye Civic League

Our fiscal year ends June 30th. While the Civic News is free (distributed to over 1,000 people), the Civic League does have annual costs that are covered by members (people who contribute \$12 or more each year).

Our annual costs are:

- Website hosting and URL registrations
- Civic News E-mail distribution software (Constant Contact)
- NH Attorney General's fees for being a 501-C and NH Secretary of State filing fees
- Printing and other expenses
- Post Office Box

Members receive:

- Invitation to annual meeting in the Fall where members may discuss anything about the organization including the Civic News. Voting for directors, policy, etc... (NOTE, moved to the early Fall).
- Invitation with agenda to each end of the month RCL meeting at the library where RCL business is discussed followed by an open public forum (no longer an RCL meeting). Meetings are the last Wednesday of the month.
- The knowledge that you are participating in raising citizen awareness of, and promoting participation in Rye's important civic affairs.

Become a member or renew!!!!

[Click Here](#) to make an online payment.

[Click Here](#) to read the invitation and complete the membership form

Membership and donations can be made by credit card via our Paypal link

at www.ryecivicleague.org or by mail to Rye Civic League P.O. Box 971 Rye, NH 03870.

Get Involved:

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- Summarize a town meeting for the Civic News
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- Social Media savvy person
- Website and help to fulfill our "digital transformation" vision. We envisioned a more dynamic capture of meeting summaries, a much better website and more dynamic communication.

We would be happy to discuss these opportunities with you at you if you so desire.

Contact Info

Rye Civic League: civicnews@ryecivicleague.org Steven Borne - President

The Rye Civic League was re-formed to promote public awareness by informing residents about the town's business and its responsiveness to its citizens. The organization also offers townspeople an opportunity to bring issues forward for discussion and unbiased resolution. Its primary purpose is to help residents of Rye, NH to act as informed citizens and thereby improve and develop our community.

Rye Civic League, PO Box 971, Rye, NH 03870

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