

Rye Civic News June 2015

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 \(click here\)](#)

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:

RCL Annual Meeting:

June 11th 7:30 pm

Location Rye Public Library

RCL on NHPR:

Story [Click Here](#) audio also available

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

June 1st: Recreation Commission 6:00 pm

June 2nd: Trustees of Trust Funds 6:00 pm

June 3rd: Zoning Board of Adjustment 7:00 pm

June 4th: Heritage Commission 6:30pm.

June 8th: Board of Selectmen 6:30 pm

June 9th: Sewer Commission 8:00am.

June 11th: RCL Annual Meeting 7:30 pm

June 16th: Mosquito Control Commission 5:00 pm

June 18th: Conservation Commission 7:00 pm.

RCL Annual Meeting June 11th 7:30 pm RPL:

Why you should come:

- 1) Established members (paid \$12 membership or contributed in-kind) will elect the RCL Board for the next 12 months. [Click Here](#) to use Pay Pal to make or renew your membership.
- 2) We need more help !!!! With video recordings for most town meetings, you do not have to attend the meetings to create the meeting summaries for the Civic News. The Civic News editors will review what you can do to help.
- 3) See how an online tool can help connect neighborhoods. The Cable Rd Neighborhood has started (over 50 household connected) and they will present information on how to use this tool. The RCL is encouraging other such micro-neighborhood groups to form.
- 4) There will be refreshments
- 5) You can come and meet and thank those who put together the Civic News, Town Handbook and the Budget/Warrant Article analysis. You can also engage with fellow residents who are very informed on how our town government is functioning and the status of various issues facing the town.

General Announcements:

Food Composting at the Transfer Station Open to Everyone: [Click Here](#)

Rye Farmers Market: Begins June 24th

Rye History Trolley Tours: July 6th at 10:00 am [Click Here](#)

No Mosquito Spraying: To e-mail the contractor not to spray your property [Click Here](#)

New Saturday Town Clerk/Tax Collector hours: 9:00am to 12pm

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

Rye Recreation Summer Programs: [Click Here](#)

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

GIS Mapping Software Presentation Video: [Click Here](#)

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

How good is our Library: [Click Here](#) to see the numbers

Appointed and Alternate Positions:

There are many opportunities to serve. A few examples are:

- Energy Committee (2 positions)
- Recycling Education Committee has an opening
- Beach Committee has an opening
- New Town Hall Committee has openings, communicate to the BOS before the June 8th meeting.
- Rye Recreation Needs assessment
- There may be Alternates and many other positions available.

[Click Here](#) to see the pre-election list (not updated). If you are interested it is best to attend a meeting or two and introduce yourself. The chair for each group can provide guidance on next steps.

June 22nd: 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

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.](#)

Jenness 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:

Board of Selectmen Meeting May 26th:

Meeting was not held.

Board of Selectmen Meeting May 11th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. The Selectmen authorized the Conservation Commission to repair damage to a Town trail after an unauthorized Jeep caused \$9800 in damage. [More Detail](#)

2. A former principal with The Shack Surf Shop was granted a permit to rent paddle boards on a drop off basis. [More Detail](#)

3. Namaste Beach Yoga was granted a permit for yoga lessons on the beach. [More Detail](#)

4. The Summer Sessions permit for surf camps and lessons was renewed on the same basis as 2014 after a long discussion. Issues included the confusion over whether participants fall within the separate camp or lesson limitations, drop offs by non-residents at Sawyers Beach, and the absence of bathroom facilities there. [More Detail](#)

5. North Hampton has confirmed its interest in having its residents use the Rye Recycling facility for a fee. [More Detail](#)

6. The State will remove the Rosa Rugosa along Route 1A rather than trim it as requested by the Selectmen. [More Detail](#)

School Board May 7th Meeting Minutes:

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

2015-2016 School Year Calendar: [Click Here](#)

Draft Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

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

1. Principal evaluation under way and will be discussed during nonpublic session during the June meeting.

2. Curriculum Advisory meetings are ongoing; English Language Arts was the latest.

3. Fuel and snowplowing costs are running at a deficit for both schools.

4. The Middle School Structure Committee held a special issues meeting on May 6th with many suggestions and feedback from the public. Next meeting is scheduled for June 9th.

5. REF approved grants for the schools for approximately \$19,000.

6. PTA donated \$15,000 to the Wedgewood Project

7. Parent Survey [Click Here](#) will be distributed on May 15th. A teacher survey and also a student survey will be implemented this year as well.

8. July School Board retreat date is set for Wednesday, July 15th at 8 AM at RJH.

9. Opening day for school in the fall is August 26th. [Click Here](#) for calendar.

School Board - May 6th Special meeting Overview:

Draft Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Fluctuating (downward) student enrollment has been driving continual staffing/structural adjustments to maintain flat budgets (at both schools).

These meetings are to help establish the town's expectations for RJH, so an optimal structure can be proposed for the predicted "range" of RJH enrollment.

2. Discussion organized RJH concerns into categories, segmented by working and not working. See [meeting minutes](#) for details

- Communication

- Curriculum

- Change in Strategy

- Aligning Curriculum with Common Core

- Social/Emotional Issues

- Dress Code

Live Free or Die Alliance

- Differentiation (leveling students based on ability)
- Parent Involvement
- Other Discussion Items

Planning Board meeting: May 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

1. Interviews with engineers for Planning Board
 - Sebago Technics, Wright Pierce and TEC
2. Payment of escrows

Planning Board June 9th Agenda:

Meeting has been canceled.

Zoning Board of Adjustment : May 6th:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

1. 25 Oak Ave - expand non-conforming house; set back issues

Approved unanimously

2. 32 Old Beach Rd. - add 2nd floor to non-conforming house; setback issues

Approved unanimously

3. 1230 Ocean Blvd - add dormers to non-conforming seasonal cottage; setback issues

Approved unanimously

4. 1232 Ocean Blvd. - add deck to non-conforming cottage; setback issues

Approved unanimously

5. 1126 Ocean Blvd. - expand non-conforming building; setback issues

Approved unanimously

Zoning Board of Adjustment: June 3rd:

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. 0 Big Rock Rd. - Administrative Appeal

2. 495 Central Rd. Patio within vernal pool and wetlands buffer

3. 63 Harbor Rd. Raze existing home and build a new house

Conservation Commission Meeting May 21st:

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

Conservation Land Maps: [Click Here](#)

Town Forrest Map: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: [Click Here](#) (Note, audio was not turned on, so the RCL merged an iphone recording with the town's video)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Minutes: Not posted

1. Site walks for wetlands applications at 94 Harbor Rd. and 2230 Ocean Blvd. were scheduled. [More Detail](#)

2. Grants are being pursued to provide additional funding for land purchases of the former Rand Lumber parcel and another parcel on South Rd. [More Detail](#)

3. Round table meetings with the Planning Board and the ZBA are being pursued to encourage Conservation Commission review of certain applications. Specific cases where this did not occur were discussed. [More Detail](#)

[More Detail](#)

4. Compensation for trail damage from a Jeep is being sought. [More Detail](#)

5. Additions to the cell phone tower on Town land managed by the Conservation Commission are being sought. This raised the issues of Conservation Commission involvement, whether the revenues should

continue to go to the Ambulance Fund, and whether the negotiations conducted by the Town are obtaining as much revenue as possible. [More Detail](#)

Beach Committee:

NOTE: The town voted in favor of dissolving the Beach Commission and the 2015 Selectman's Beach Committee was established for one year.

1. [Click Here](#) for the 2015 Charter
2. Current 1 year appointments are Larry Rocha, Keper Connell, Steve Hillman and Lori Carbajal. A fifth position is not yet filled.

Recreation Commission Meeting May 4th:

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

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. MOU for Rye After School Program for 2015-16 with School Board is agreed upon.
2. Two volunteers for the open position were in attendance
3. Budgeted drainage work will occur in July or October
4. 9th Grader, Alyssa Chase is working to implement a Town Movie night and discussed possible locations.
5. Options discussed on how to best address people who are parking where they shouldn't even when there are available spaces.

Demolition Review Committee March 18th

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

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

RCL Meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

1. 511 Wallis Rd. Rand Lumber Barn: Discussion of moving it to 496 Wallis Rd.
2. Discussion of 4 Washington Rd. Public Hearing March 26th at 1:00 pm

Heritage Commission Meeting May 7th:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

1. Election of 2015 Officers: Mae Bradshaw, Chairman; Rich Davis, Vice Chairman; Sara Hall, Secretary; Jane Holway, Treasurer
2. Town Hall: Jason LaCombe of SMP Architecture is providing specific renovation of Town Hall costs to the Heritage Commission. The Commission voted to put a plaque on Town Hall stating that it is on the State Historic Register
3. The Commission will hold a gravestone preservation demonstration in late June as part of its Graveyard maintenance program

Rye Energy Committee Meeting May 5th:

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

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: not available

1. Energy Committee now has two open positions.
2. Elementary Schools poster has been completed.
3. Continue to work with the Jenesse Beach Village District to help them improve the street lights. The Town has 10 hour less efficient mercury based street lights.

Rye Recycling Education Committee May 19th

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: Was not scheduled to be recorded

1. There are businesses that collect other forms of materials for Recycling, a list will be created for the next Selectmen's News Letter.
2. Committee is looking to fill the remaining vacancy
3. Free food composting at the Transfer Station continues [Click Here](#) for details.
4. Those other plastics (#3 to #7). There are discussions to see what can be done for all of those milk jugs, plastic clam shells, styrofoam and other material the Transfer Station will not take. While there is not much of a commercial market for #3 to #7 for a household who recycles and composts, these are the next biggest volume of household waste.

Historic District Commission May 6th

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

Mosquito Commission Meeting May 19th:

Learn more about the Mosquito Commission: [Click Here](#)
Town Meeting Minutes: Nothing posted
Video of March 25th meeting: [Click Here](#)

Sewer Commission Meeting May 12th:

Learn more about the Mosquito Commission: [Click Here](#)
Town Meeting Minutes: Nothing posted
Video Recording: Scheduled but not turned on

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 update 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:

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

Older opinion Recent 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 May 28th Discussion

1. Town Hall Committee
2. How meeting minutes are posted and maintained

3. Rand Lumber Barn move

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

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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