

Rye Civic News June 2016

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 \(click here\)](#)

Next RCL Meeting:

Annual Meeting - June 20th 6:00 pm Sawyers Beach (RPL inclement weather)

PLEASE COME & JOIN US
[Click Here](#)

Meetings

(at Town Hall unless indicated)

June 1st. Rye Water District 9:00 am 60 Sagamore Rd.

June 1st: Zoning Board of Adjustment 7:00 pm

June 2nd: Master Plan 3:30 pm

June 2nd: Heritage Commission 6:30 pm.

June 6th: Parsonage Apartments Committee 5:00 pm

June 6th: Recreation Space Needs 6:00 pm

June 7th: Recreation Commission 6:00 pm

June 7th: Energy Committee 6:30 pm RPL

June 13: Board of Selectmen 6:30 pm

June 14th: Sewer Commission 8:00 am RBPO building

June 14th: Planning Board 7:00 pm

June 15th School Board meeting 6:00 pm RJH

June 16th: Conservation Commission 7:00 pm

General Announcements:

1. **June 20th RCL Annual meeting:** 6pm Sawyers Beach (RPL inclement weather) [Click Here](#)
2. Public review needed for FEMA Mitigation Planning: [Click Here](#)
3. **Coastal Risk and Hazard Commission:** [Click Here](#) for public comment [Click Here](#) for draft report
4. **Cancer Cluster February 2nd Report:** [Click Here](#) Other links [Click Here](#) Community Group facebook page: [Click Here](#) April Rye Water Testing results [Click Here](#)
5. **Rye Recreation Senior Program (updated):** 2015-2016 Active, Alive and over 55 [Click Here](#)
6. **Rye Recreation Summer Programs Registration:** [Click here](#)
7. **Assessment Data:** Online views of town lots [Click Here](#)
8. **GIS Mapping** Software Presentation Video: [Click Here](#)
9. Portsmouth Youth Football Registration: [Click Here](#)
10. Rye Travel Soccer Registraion (opens June 5th): [Click Here](#)
11. **Discussion of issues facing Rye.** [Click Here](#)

Board of Selectmen Meeting May 23rd:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town Meeting minutes: Not available

1. Eversource has been cutting trees on private property along Washington Rd. based on a "verbal signature." The Selectmen and residents expressed concern that Eversource is not fully informing the residents of their options. Tree cutting in the Town right-of-way will not occur prior to Planning Board approval. [More Detail](#) Text of resident letter [Click Here](#)
2. The Selectmen approved entering into a five year renewal of the franchise agreement with Comcast on the existing terms inasmuch as it appears that cost and programming issues of importance to residents are non-negotiable. The agreement permits the Town to tax Comcast's property, but further action on that awaits resolution of legal issues, including an existing lawsuit with Verizon. [More Detail](#)
3. Residents will have 30 days to provide written input on the Draft Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan that will be submitted to FEMA [Click Here](#) to see document. Selectman Musselman objected to a number of major expenditures in the draft plan. [More Detail](#)
4. The low bid for heating oil for the coming year is \$1.72 per gallon, applicable to the Town and School District. This compares to a School District budget of \$3.19 per gallon, which will generate over \$50,000 in savings at the budgeted usage, approximately equivalent to half a teacher. [More Detail](#)
5. The Red Mill Ln. culvert replacement project has run into some snags due to the need to expand the culvert to handle tidal and rain flows. [More Detail](#)
6. Rye will enter discussions with North Hampton regarding possible collaboration on municipal services. [More Detail](#)
7. State approval to install parking meters along Ocean Blvd. has still not been received. The Selectmen are concerned that this may presage a negative response. [More Detail](#)

June 20th: Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment 6:00 pm.

June 20th: RCL Annual Meeting 6:00 pm Sawyers Beach (RPL inclement weather)

June 27th: Board of Selectmen Meeting 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)

2015 Beach Report Click Here

GIS Parcel Data: Click Here

Transfer Station and Recycling Flyer: 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. RBVD Treasurer's Report. Click Here

Jeness Beach Budget: Click Here

Board of Selectmen Meeting May 9th:

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

1. Portsmouth has withdrawn its offer to consolidate services with Rye. [More Detail](#)
2. All three members of Rye's State Legislative Delegation were present to discuss cancer clusters and possible pollution of the water supply. [More Detail](#)
3. A tardily-filed beach permit application was approved on the condition that there be no further applications. [More Detail](#)
4. Norman Yeaton is retiring as Town Janitor. [More Detail](#)
5. Donna DeCotis was advanced from Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector to Town Clerk/Tax Collector following the retirement of Beth Yeaton. The vote was 2-1, Selectman Mills dissenting. [More Detail](#)
6. Andrea Morrissey resigned as Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector, citing her inability to meet the education and training requirements to move up to Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector, and her unwillingness to serve as Assistant because the position will no longer provide health and other benefits. These changes reduce the Town Clerk's office staff from three to one. Letter is not included in the public record. [Click here](#) for text transcribed from video. [More Detail](#)

Parson's Creek Pollution Committee May 17th Site Walk:

Organized Additional Information: [Click Here](#)
Information from the Planning Department: [Click Here](#)
Committee Charge from the BOS: [Click Here](#)
Video Recording: Site Walk planning [Click Here](#)
RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)
Town Meeting minutes: Not Available

1. Toured areas of highest pollution, see great RCL notes for discussion of these locations.
2. Discussion of need to place beach signs this Summer
3. Residents informed the group of how dog waste is dumped in undeveloped locations

Parsonage Apartments Committee May 23rd :

Committee Charge from the BOS: [Click Here](#)
Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Parsonage Apartments Committee May 2nd:

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)
Draft Town Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. Reviewed charge and mission
2. Mel Low appointed Chair
3. Discussed next steps, Site walk, gathering engineering/site plans and financials

Rye Districts Information:

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

Rye Water May 4th meeting:

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)
RCL Notes: [Click Here](#)
Draft Meeting Minutes:

1. There was only one bidder on the Parsons Rd. water main replacement project. The scope may need to be reduced as the bid was for more than the amount budgeted.
2. Water quality sampling results are back, including for several newly-

School Budget:

Here is a link to the Proposed 2016-2017 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

identified potential contaminants. The Commissioners asserted that no problems were identified. Three residents had numerous questions and noted an apparent lack of follow-up on a 2002 finding of high copper in the Rye Elementary School water.

3. Wright Pierce will be doing a rate study that may lead to an increase water rates, but a reduction in tax rates.

4. Portsmouth is planning to quadruple the rate on water that it sells on Rye.

School Board May 26th Meeting:

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

Draft School Board Meeting Minutes: Not posted

RCL Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

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

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

[Click Here](#) to see RCL Budget overview

1. Marie Soucy of York Maine Middle School was appointed Rye Junior High School principal. Ms. Soucy made a few comments (0:11 elapsed). [Press Release](#)

2. 2015-2016 school year budget surplus will be about \$200,000 (doesn't include Portsmouth High School tuition surplus that must be returned to taxpayers). June deadline for School Board to utilize the surplus for pressing maintenance needs and professional development. Schools are approaching the maximum 2.5% of the amount to be raised through taxes that can be retained, all else must be returned to taxpayers. (0:24 elapsed).

3. After a public hearing, the expenditure of up to \$20,000 from the Wedgewood Farm fund was authorized, to be spent on poison ivy eradication and other maintenance needs. (0:54 elapsed)

4. Kindergarten enrollment has climbed to 38. The School Board appears pleased. Three classes will be provided (1:21 elapsed).

5. Heating oil price for July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 revealed at the May 23 Board of Selectmen meeting is \$1.72 per gallon, compared to \$3.19 per gallon budgeted for 2016-2017 school year. At the budgeted usage, this amounts to a windfall for the School District of over \$50,000, approximately equivalent to half of a teacher, with benefits.

Planning Board meeting: May 10th:

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

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

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

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

1. 2280 Ocean Blvd - Jenness State Beach presentation by rep. from State of NH about building a new bath house and site improvements. Board requested that exact size of building be provided. Work to be done after Labor Day 2016; complete by Memorial Day 2017

2. Annual Report from Moorings at Rye Harbor

3. Chair Epperson stated that: "There are large tracts of land in Rye and it is rumored that they are going to be developed in some way. He would like the board to be thinking about how to handle development in the town."

LRP Public Meeting (Master Plan) May 12th

Public Meeting - May 12th 6 :30pm RJH - **Nothing posted yet for review**

[Click Here](#) for the current Master Plan

Next meeting June 2nd; [Click Here](#) for agenda

1. Review the public forum on the Climate Change Chapter

2. Get Ready for the Public Forum on the other Master Plan Chapters-

- a. Transportation

- Land Use

- Natural Resources

Planning Board June 14th Agenda:

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. 50 Jenness Ave: Lot line adjustment
2. 795 Washington Rd. (Websters at Rye): Amend site plan to allow tree removal for better snow removal and parking

Zoning Board of Adjustment: May 18th:

Recorded Video [Click Here](#)

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

1. 325 Wallis Rd - expansion of non conforming building side setback, height and coverage issues. Approved 5-0
2. 15 Richard Rd. - expansion of non conforming building side setback and wetlands issues. Approved 5-0
3. 0 (formerly 10) Pollock Dr. - build new house on inadequate size lot height issue New house Approved 5-0, Height Approved 3-1

Zoning Board of Adjustment May 4th:

Recorded Video [Click Here](#)

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

1. 1601 Ocean Blvd. Install a deck within the 100' tidal buffer Approved 5-0
2. 287 Wallis Rd. - Build shed/garage with side setback and coverage issues. Approved 5-0
3. 355 Central Rd.(Selectman Mill's house 45:41 elapsed) - Request Equitable Waiver of Dimensional Requirements existing shed and garage - side set back issues Garage Approved 5-0, Shed - Approved 3-2 [More Detail](#)
4. 108 Straws Point Rd. - expansion of non conforming building side setback and coverage issues. Approved 5-0
5. 710 Long John Rd. - expansions of non conforming building. Side setback issue. Approved 5-0

Zoning Board of Adjustment: June 1st Agenda:

[Click Here](#) for agenda

1. 34 Bracket Rd.: Special exception and variance to place a barn within the wetlands buffer and high tide line.
2. 30 LaMer Drive: Special exception for an accessory apartment
3. 1381 Ocean Blvd.: Two different Administrative Appeals for notice of violation issued by the building inspector
4. 1146 Ocean Blvd.: Tear down a non-conforming house and build a new house.
5. 1535 Ocean Blvd.: Variances for converting seasonal cottage units to year round, as there is insufficient lot size.
6. 50 Jenness Ave.: Variances for tear down and new construction as lot lines are being changed.
7. 22 Odiorne Dr.: Teardown and replace non-conforming building
8. 228 Parsons Rd.: Expand non-conforming structure
9. 1142 Ocean Blvd.: Equitable waiver and variance as location slightly exceeded approved variance

Conservation Commission No May Meeting

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

Conservation Land Maps: [Click Here](#)

Town Forest map: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Draft Meeting minutes: [April Minutes](#)

May 2nd Site Walk Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. 731 Abenaqui CC
2. 11F Street

Conservation Trail Management May 23rd Meeting:

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Draft Meeting minutes: Not available

Recreation Commission May 3rd:

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

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

Recorded Video: Nothing available

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

Summer program Registrations: [Click Here](#)

Active, Alive and over 55 Programs: [Click Here](#)

1. While there is adequate parking, people continue to park in the No Parking areas. New parking ordinance will be developed to allow our Police to better enforce the parking rules.
2. Rye Recreation field use application process was discussed.
3. Insurance company is recommending a wooden guard rail be installed to prevent additional cars from going into the pond.
4. Discussion about repairs to the Little League fence.

Recreation Space Needs Committee May 2nd

Updated Charge: [Click Here](#) to review

[Click Here](#) for survey to print When complete [e-mail](#) or mail in

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Draft Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Core programs reviewed (see meeting minutes)
2. Discussion of the tasks and goals for the architect
3. Please see the meeting minutes appendix for program summary report and survey questions and results

Heritage Commission Meeting May 5th

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

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

1. Progress is being made on securing grant money for maintenance on the cupola.
2. Discussion on interaction with the Parsonage Apartments Committee.

Rye Energy Committee Meeting: May 3rd:

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

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

1. May 24th Solar 101 Workshop 6:30 pm Oyster River High School [Click Here](#) for more information
1. Discussion about solar panes for the Breakfast Hill Landfill
2. Update on tasks for the Public Safety Building actions
3. Committee helped the Jenness Beach Village District with evaluation of new street lights
4. Committee is also reaching out to the State to make a better lighting design decision for the Jenness Beach Bathhouses
5. An additional member is needed for this committee.

Rye Recycling Education Committee May 17th

Town Meeting minutes: Not available

Video Recording: Not available

1. Discussed 2016 plan and goals
2. Reviewed how to engage with teachers to improve recycling

Historic District Commission April 6th Meeting

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

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

1. Reviewed the Star Island project for egress stair replacement. Changes were approved.

2. Reviewed 1984 Historic District Plan to see if changes or updates are required.

Capital Improvement Plan May 26th Meeting

View Current CIP: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town Meeting Minutes: Not Available

Library Board of Trustees May 9th

Trustee Home Page: [Click Here](#)

Library Meeting minutes: Not Available

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Mosquito Commission Meeting May 17th

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

Draft Town Meeting Minutes: March is the most recent meeting minutes available

Video of meeting: [Click Here](#)

Sewer Commission Meeting May 10th:

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

No Video Recording as meetings are at the Rye Beach Post Office building.

1. Flow report from Church Rd. station was reviewed.
2. Sewer permit for 2230 Ocean Blvd. discussed and approved
3. 2105 Collection System Operations and Maintenance Plan and Summary report was sent to the EPA for review.
4. 35 South Rd Sewer discussed and approved
5. 25 Big Rock Lane connection discussed and approved
6. Maple Avenue discussion for connection approved.

Beach Committee Last Meeting December 16th:

Facebook Page [Click Here](#)

Last Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

2015 Beach Report was presented to the BOS. [Click Here](#) for the report

Beach Parking Report: [Click Here](#)

Selectmen disbanded the Beach Commission (voter supported) and now this group has not met since December, leaving the Selectmen in control of the beach.

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..

a) No updates on a potential major sub-division on South Rd.

Past topics:

b) Cancer Cluster: [Click Here](#) for more information

c) Parson's Creek Pollution: Will a Selectmen's Committee fix this problem? [Click Here](#)

d) 2015 Beach Report [Click Here](#) What do you think?

e) Other Discussion topics: [Click Here](#)

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:

None

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. ZBA May 6th meeting: [More Detail](#)
2. Beach issues and permits for business
3. Rye School budget and new principal selection
4. Lack of discussion about Town Hall next steps

Other Town Activity

How Good is our Library?

2015 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: 2015 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

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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