

Rye Civic News June 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:

June 28th RPL
6:30 pm

Meetings

(at Town Hall
unless
indicated)

June 5th:

Recreation
Commission
6:00 pm

June 6:

Energy
Committee
6:30 pm

June 7th:

Zoning Board
of Adjustment
7:00 pm

June 8th:

Historic
District
Commission
6:30 pm.

June 12th:

Board of
Selectmen
6:30pm.

June 13th:

Sewer
Commission
8:00am RBVD

June 14th:

School Board
5:00 pm

June 15th:

School
Feasibility
Committee
8:30 am

June 20th:

Mosquito
Control 5:00
pm.

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:

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 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.

May Highlights:

1. 421 South Rd. Major Site development continues. Additional site walk was completed.
2. Low Cancer Cluster survey response was too small to provide any insights. Representative Messmer is establishing a working group. See [Herald article](#)
3. New Fire Chief selection process does not include public input
4. Available alternate and appointed positions are now posted on the town website.
5. Selectmen agreed to change the process for how alternated and appointed positions are awarded (a direct response from a resident calling attention to areas for improvements)
6. Invasive species "Japanese knot weed" is at the Transfer Station.
7. Sanders Poynt still not restored.
8. 3 Non-Public Board of Selectmen meetings held in May

June 21st:
Zoning Board
of Adjustment
7:00 pm

June 26th:
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)

Town Forest
Management
Plan
(Click Here)

2015 Beach
Report Click
Here

GIS Parcel
Data: Click
Here

Transfer
Station and
Recycling
Flyer: Click
Here.

Town
Budgets
Budget
Analysis:

9. Brad Fulkerson has been appointed to the Beach Committee

General Announcements:

1. **421 South Rd Planning Board Meeting: 7pm RJH June 13th**
2. Need more Parents to complete the Annual School Survey
RES Parents: [Click Here](#)
RJH Parents: [Click Here](#)
3. **Energize 360** [Click Here](#) for their website: [Click Here](#) for overview
June 7th Solar Open House. [Click Here](#)
June 15 Event information [Click Here](#)
4. Open Appointed and Alternate Positions: [Click Here](#)
5. **Rye History Trolley Tour, July 4th** 10:30am to 12:00am make reservations [e-mail](#)
6. **Goss Farm** Garden plots may still be available
7. **Rye Recreation Senior Program:** 2016-2017 Active, Alive and over 55 [Click Here](#)
8. **Rye Recreation Summer Programs Registration (new):** [Click here](#)
9. **Assessment Data:** Online views of town lots [Click Here](#)
10. **GIS Mapping** Software Presentation Video: [Click Here](#)
11. Rye Family in need information and request for help. [Click Here](#)

Board of Selectmen Meeting May 22nd:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

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

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. The Selectmen voted to ratify the results of the March town election under special State legislation permitting this, after issues were raised in other towns about the Moderator's authority to postpone the election due to inclement weather. [More Detail](#)
2. Several members of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance were present to discuss possible funding sources to paint the Town Hall. [More Detail](#)
3. A decision was deferred on whether Rye would enter into an agreement with New Castle regarding snow removal from the sidewalks of the replacement bridge between the two towns. Rye has no suitable snow removal equipment. [More Detail](#)
4. Ocean Blvd. safety improvements were discussed with a representative from the Rockingham Planning Commission, which had done a corridor study a few years ago. [More Detail](#)
5. The Harbor Road Bridge weight limit will likely be reduced at the next meeting. While three and five axle vehicles will have higher limits than proposed at the May 10 meeting, there will still be issues for concrete and rock trucks. [More Detail](#)

Board of Selectmen Meeting May 10th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

1. Former Rye Police Chief and Town Administrator Alan Gould's firm, Municipal Resources Inc. ("MRI") has been retained to conduct a search for a full-time Fire Chief. The Selectmen and MRI will make the hiring decision without involving the citizens or Fire Department employees. [More Detail](#)
2. Options for the Harbor Road Bridge were considered. The engineer has determined that the weight capacity is not as great as had been thought, and refurbishment is needed whether or not the capacity is increased. [More Detail](#)
3. The Town is out of compliance on use of the Outer Marker site [105 Locke Rd](#), transferred by the Federal Government a number of years ago. The site will be turned into a park. [More Detail](#)
4. It appears that the Selectmen will change the process for their committee and commission appointments, requiring a full committee vote, rather than the recommendation of the chairman, and posting openings for a period of time. [More Detail](#)
5. The State Department of Transportation has denied the Town's request to install parking meters along Ocean Blvd. in an October 2016 letter not received by the town until this month. [More Detail](#)
6. A resident who arrived slightly late to the three hour meeting sat through almost the entire meeting, only to learn that her letter had been filed without discussion as part of the Consent Agenda vote. [More Detail](#) Copy of the letter: [Click Here](#)

Board of Selectmen Meeting - JBVD May 15th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

[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

1. Joint Non-Public Session per RSA regarding Personnel and Reputation. Members of the public participating in the matter invited to stay, Deb Crapo District Clerk and Treasurer (not a District Commissioner) stayed.
2. Work Session with JBVD Commissioners and public
 - a. Water drainage issues,
 - b. Central Road Aquarion Wellhead protection,
 - c. The practical and statutory roles and responsibilities of the Commission vs. Selectmen
 - d. Beach Patrol and Parking-Perkins Road parking safety issues. State not willing to consider Ocean Blvd meters if it would reduce available spaces, state to investigate remote parking and shuttles.
 - e. Zoning issues unique to Jenness Beach- minutes state as "addressed earlier"

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.

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 May 3rd:

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.

School Board May 31st 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)

School Board Update e-mail: April was sent to parents

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

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

RES May Principal Report: [Click Here](#)

PARENTS PLEASE get your survey responses completed:

RES survey: [Click Here](#) RJH survey: [Click Here](#)

1. Building maintenance for RES & RJH was discussed; all projects approved, new roof for RJH
2. Board accepted resignation from eighth grade math teacher Ms. Catalano, she is going to SAU 16.
3. Both principals presented reports of school activities to the board
4. Math at RES next year in some grades (I think grades 1-4) will be co-taught with math coach Maggie Hanna. Several teachers will be attending math conference this summer.
5. Water testing discussion: Mindi Messmer recommended that the water at RES & RJH be tested and PFC's be included in the test

Planning Board meeting: May 9th:

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

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Town Draft meeting minutes: Not posted

Agenda for meeting: [Click Here](#)

May 25th 421 South Rd. Site Walk: [Click Here](#)

1. - 60 Wentworth Rd (WBTSCC) Request replacement of golf net with taller net and poles
Jurisdiction of case accepted 7-0 Public Hearing Case continued to June meeting
2. Ch. Epperson handed out a draft of the Master Plan to the board; it is not yet available or the public, nor have there been any public meetings about the changes.

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 and Regulations Committee and Zoning Amendments:

No recent meetings

Planning Board June 13th Agenda:

Agenda for meeting: [Click Here](#)

1. 0 Airfield Drive Residential development postponed to July
2. WBTSCC for 90ft Driving range fence
3. 421 South Rd. Major Subdivision - 22 lot subdivision

Zoning Board of Adjustment: May 3rd:

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](#)

RCL meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

1. 0 Big Rock Rd. Request rehearing of March Building where variance was denied continued to June meeting
- 2/3. 740 Washington Rd. Administrative appeal of building inspector notice of violation for 2nd dwelling on lot and wetland buffer issue. Denied 5-0
- 4/5. 421 South Rd. Request driveway within wetlands buffer. Continued to June meeting

Zoning Board of Adjustment: June 7th Agenda:

[Click Here](#) for agenda

- 1 0 Big Rock Road. Re-hearing of denial to utilize property
2. 740 Washington Rd. Notice of violation
3. 421 South Rd. Special Exceptions for driveway over wetlands and building in the vernal pool buffer
4. 150 Lafayette Rd. Administrative Appeal
5. 21 Bracket Road Variance for a porch to be in the wetland buffer
6. 11 Fairhill Ave. Expansion of a non-conforming structure
7. 30 La Mer Drive - Tear down and build new
8. 620 Wallis Rd. Variance for a shed within the wetlands
9. 531 Bracket Rd 8ft fence when 6 ft is allowed
10. 11 Surf Rd. Expansion of a non-conforming building

Conservation Commission (CC) May 18th:

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: [Click Here](#)

May 9th Town Forrest Site Walk Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

May 22nd Site Walk 780 Ocean Boulevard and 20 Hunterville Avenue [Click Here](#)

1. Wetland application, 780 Ocean Blvd, The Breakers. Applicant Andrew Foss presented his proposal to add solar panels and a geothermal system that will be connected to the adjacent pond to provide energy for his home. Site walk minutes on May 22, for a description of the proposal. [Click Here](#)
2. Town Forest update by members Susan Shepcaro and Mike Garvan. Rye Library Director, Andy Richmond, has been working on a GPS project for the Town Forest trails. Member Shepcaro discussed the site walk with Charlie Moreno who is updating the Rye Town Forest Management Plan.

3. 20 Hunterville Avenue, the property abuts CC land and the owner was granted variance relief from the ZBA. Request for cutting trees and other issues relating to the proximity of the drip edge (3 feet) of the building abutting the CC land. See link above site walk minutes, May 22, for more details.

4. Follow up on approved projects: 243 Parsons Road; 7 Elizabeth Lane; 245 Pioneer Road; 335 Washington Road. Building Inspector Peter Rowell is working with members of the CC to follow up on the status of the projects that were approved by the CC.

Recreation Commission Meeting April 12th:

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 May Meeting:

June 5th Agenda: [Click Here](#)

Heritage Commission Meeting May 4th.

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

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

1. Update on the work to help the Town maintain the Town Hall building
2. More resident involvement is needed for the Graveyard project.
3. Discussion with the Seacoast Science Center about possible programs.

Mosquito Commission Meeting May 16th:

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.

Budget Committee: April 18th:

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

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

1. There will be Emergency Management drills for Seabrook Nuclear Plant in September and November.
2. Police and Fire applied for a grant to support the "Public Eye" software. Rye receives \$8,100 from Homeland Security for Emergency Management.
3. Town revaluation will be completed before the next tax rate setting in the Fall of 2017

Rye Energy Committee Meeting: May 2nd:

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.

June 7th Clark Road [Open House](#), June 15th [Information](#) and other [information](#).

Rye Recycling Education Committee April 18th

Video Recording: Not available

Draft town meeting minutes: Not available

Openings for two new members.

1. Transfer Station Survey: [Click Here](#)

Library Board of Trustees May 15th:

Trustee Home Page: [Click Here](#)

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Minutes not available

Sewer Commission Meeting April 11th

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

1. Discussion of ice pigging the force main for maintenance, cost is estimated at \$48,000.

2. The Sewer Fund balance was reported as \$564,077 and the Money Market fund had a balance of \$69,934.
3. The inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Hampton needs to be renewed.

Historic District Commission March 7th Meeting

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town Meeting Minutes: Not Available

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](#)

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.

Beach Committee:

Facebook Page [Click Here](#)

Selectmen disbanded the Beach Commission (voter supported) and last met in July. See BOS notes as this commission will continue.

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 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. 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

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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