

Rye Civic News

from the Rye Civic League

March 2015

"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:

March 26 6:30 pm RPL
(meetings are normally the 4th Wednesday of the month)

2014 Citizens Handbook is now updated. [Click Here](#)

Please see the new Opinion Section and the "Public Forum Discussion" section.

Upcoming Town Meetings and Events

March 2nd: Recreation Commission 6:00 pm

March 2nd: Candidates Night 7:00 pm RPL

March 4th: Zoning Board of Adjustment 7:00 pm

March 4th: School Board 6:00 pm RJH

March 5th: Heritage Commission 6:30 pm

March 9th: Board of Selectmen 6:30 pm

March 10th: TOWN ELECTION 8:00 am to 7:00 pm RES

March 10th: Sewer Commission 8:00 am

March 17th: Planning Board - RJH 7:00pm

March 18th: Demolition

TOWN ELECTION:

Candidates Night: March 2nd 7 pm RPL

- Candidates will give an opening statement and answer question from the audience. There are five contested races and all candidates are invited. Candidate bios or statements provided to the RCL will be posted afterwards.

PAYT and Getting Big Money out of Politics: March 8th 3pm RPL

[Click Here](#) for more information

1. Article 23 will present information about what the big money is doing to the political process. 3pm
2. Article 25 presents "Trash Talk" presentation and discussion. 4pm

Tuesday, March 10th 8:00 am to 7:00 pm RES

Supporting Documents

- Town Ballot [Click Here](#)
- School Ballot [Click Here](#)
- Absentee Ballot request form [Click Here](#)
- Explanation and information on all Warrant Articles: [Click Here](#)
 - * Document contains links to additional information
 - * Also see the Deliberative Meeting section below
- Warrant Article Summary Table (short explanations): [Click Here](#)
- Town and School Budget Analysis: [Click Here](#)
- School Budget Full Text: [Click Here](#)
- Town Budget Documents:
 - * Work Sheet: [Click Here](#)
 - * MS7 [Click Here](#) Forms that are submitted to the State
- District Budgets: Budget Committee Mtg Video [Click Here](#)
 - * Water District Budget: [Click Here](#)
 - * Rye Beach District Budget: [Click Here](#)
 - * Jenness Beach District Budget: [Click Here](#)

Appointed and Alternate Positions:

There are many opportunities to serve. [Click Here](#)

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.

Water District Meeting March 28th 10:00 am RJH

Water District Warrant: [Click Here](#)

Water District Budget: [Click Here](#)

1. Warrant Article 7, to convert the Rye Water District to SB2 (just like the Town and School) will be considered. If SB2 is adopted, voters will vote on Water District measures at the Town election on the first Tuesday in

Review 1:00 pm Town Hall
.
March 18th: Rye Recycling Education Committee

March 19th: Conservation Commission 7:00 pm

March 28th: Rye Water District TOWN Meeting 10:00 RJH

Town Reference Documents on the Town Web Site:

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Click

Here This plan is updated annually and is a great way to see what the Town is planning for future capital expenditures

Town of Rye Master Plan (click here)

2014 FEMA maps: Click Here

Rye Rec Master Plan (Click Here)

GIS Parcel Data: Click Here

Town Budgets

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:

March. You must come to the March 28 meeting to vote on this.
2. Also on the warrant is a measure to extend the Water District Service to a ten home subdivision in Greenland.

Town Meeting Part 1: Deliberative Meeting Jan. 31st

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

RCL Video and Meeting Notes with Time Stamps

Section 1: Articles 1 to 15

RCL Video [Click Here](#) RCL Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. New rule was announced by Moderator Eaton, preventing those seeking the floor when the question is called from speaking until after the vote to continue or end debate. [More Detail](#)

NOTE: Clarification to February 2015 Civic News: When the question is called, the new rule by the Moderator did not prevent debate, debate can only be ended by vote (2/3 majority) when the questions is called, the new procedure did not change this. We apologize for our error.

2. Town Hall project for \$4.1 million was discussed. Debt position is currently favorable, however there are a number of large potential projects that could increase taxes. [More Detail](#)

3. After vigorous discussion and a declaration of purported illegality by Town Counsel, an attempt to amend a warrant article to allocate 100 percent of Beach Parking Permit revenues to beach-related purposes failed. [More Detail](#)

4. Resident of Parsonage Apartments asks what has happened to funds from prior debt incurred for renovation and the lease payments received from the Housing Partnership and questions why money should be provided to a group that, she asserts, has mismanaged the apartments. [More Detail](#)

Section 2: Articles 16 to 22

RCL Video [Click Here](#) RCL Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. The default budget was increased by nearly \$600,000 because of an error. [More Detail](#)

2. Residents appeared to support the fireworks ordinance which would not ban most sparklers. [More Detail](#)

3. An attempt was made to amend a warrant article dissolving the Beach Commission and placing control of the lifeguards under the Fire Department to accomplish only the latter, leaving the Beach Commission in place. The amendment was defeated after vigorous discussion of beach-related issues. [More Detail](#)

4. A petitioned warrant article to establish a \$3000 Master Plan Expendable Trust was amended to leave the trust in place, but remove a requirement that the Planning Board update a chapter each year. [More Detail](#)

Section 3 Articles 23 to 30

RCL Video [Click Here](#) RCL Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. The petitioned warrant article for the study of an indoor turf field led to support as well as opposition. [More Detail](#)

2. The petitioned warrant article to implement a pay-as-you-throw program in Rye generated vigorous discussion and a few minor amendments, including the addition of a 50 gallon bag for \$3.00. [More Detail](#)

3. The petitioned warrant article to strengthen the conservation acquisition approval process was amended, on the motion of Selectman Musselman, to remove most of its content, and make appraisals and surveys optional, based on determination by the Selectmen. A further amendment by a citizen to make an environmental study mandatory for properties previously used commercially carried. [More Detail](#)

4. The petitioned warrant article to require the CIP Committee to prioritize projects was amended, on the motion of Selectman Musselman, to eliminate the prioritization language. [More Detail](#)

[Click Here](#)**Rye Police Homepage**[Click Here](#)[Facebook: Click Here](#)**Other Helpful Links:**[Live Free or Die Alliance](#)**School Meeting Part 1: Deliberative Meeting February 4th**

Town Meeting Minutes: Not available yet

RCL Video: [Click Here](#)**General Announcements:****Rye Little League Registration:** [Click Here](#)**Seacoast Lacrosse Registration:** [Click Here](#)**South School House:** Available to move [Click Here](#)**Rye Recreation Senior Program:** 2014-2015 Active, Alive and over 55
[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**Board of Selectmen Meeting February 23rd:**Video Recording: [Click Here](#)RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: not available yet.

1. Comcast representative attempts to explain why rates have been increasing so quickly. Selectmen indicate that many elderly residents on fixed incomes may be unable to decipher the complex schedule of rates to find the \$24.60 per month minimum service. [More Detail](#)
2. Town is looking for the oldest Rye resident to receive the Boston Post Cane. A potential recipient is a woman who will turn 100 on May 11. [More Detail](#)
3. State transportation plan is questioned, as Ocean Blvd. is not listed. [More Detail](#)
4. Central Rd. near the Post Office may require expensive "full depth reconstruction" to repair it. [More Detail](#)
5. Selectmen debate mailbox replacement policy. Many requests are likely to come in when and if the snow finally melts, Selectmen Jenness asserts. [More Detail](#)

Board of Selectmen February 10th Work session:Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

1. Meeting with Portsmouth Fire Department and Portsmouth Fire Commissioner. Discussed a broad range of possibilities. Discussions will continue as a working group.

Budget Committee District Public Hearing Feb. 3rd:Town Video: [Click Here](#)Rye Beach District Budget: [Click Here](#)Jenness Beach District Budget: [Click Here](#)Rye Water District Budget: [Click Here](#)

1. All budgets approved as presented
2. Selectman Musselman picked up on the difficulties of understanding how Rye Water bills and ability to compare it to other communities.

School Board Budget Overview:Full Proposed Budget: [Click Here](#) RCL Budget Analysis: [Click Here](#)

To See sections, click on the title:

Curriculum, Assessment & Instruction section: [Click Here](#)[RES Principal Overview](#), [RJH Principal Overview](#), [Executive Summary](#), [What has changed overview](#), [Budget Allocation chart](#), [Staffing costs and changes](#), [Maintenance Objectives](#), [Enrollment Projections](#)

1. \$568,911 more will be needed to be raised through property taxes.
\$206,089 (budget increase) + \$241,322 (reduced surplus carry forward) + \$92,500 (fewer RJH New Castle students) + \$29,000 (reduced Medicaid reimbursement)
2. 5th Grade position will be eliminated. The current two non- budgeted

Special Education positions, plus two additional Special Education positions are being added. Special Ed budget is 9.29% of the total school budget.

3. PHS per student tuition is estimated to increase again. Two year increase of 11%.
4. Rye funds 48.34% of the SAU50 budget
5. Maintenance Fund will be getting \$5,000 less than normal.
6. Budget numbers do not include the current teachers union contract under discussion, that is separate warrant article.

School Board February 18th Meeting Minutes:

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

No Summary or draft town minutes available (no video to help us create them either)

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

March 4th Meeting agenda: [Click Here](#)

Planning Board meeting: February 10th:

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

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

RCL Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Not available

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. Lot line adjustment for School District purchase of land adjacent to Junior High continued to March meeting. [More Detail](#)
2. Wentworth-by-the-sea Country Club gets approval for lot line adjustment to allow 32,000 sq. ft. purchase of adjacent land. [More Detail](#)
3. Rye Farm (561 South Rd., D.D. Cook) continued as agreement in principle reached for Conservation Commission to purchase lot 5 following ZBA denial of wetlands crossing. [More Detail](#)
4. 464 Brackett Rd. nine lot subdivision advances. Many initial concerns with septic, etc. expressed by Town consultant AMEC. [More Detail](#)
5. Wentworth-by-the-sea Country Club conceptual consultation on ballroom to replace tent is received favorably. [More Detail](#)

Planning Board March 17th Agenda: RJH

Next Planning Board Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. RJH Lot Line Adjustment
2. Old Ferry Landing Rd.: Major Subdivision lot lines
3. 561 South Rd. (Rye Farm) Major Subdivision
4. 464 Bracket Rd. Major Subdivision

Zoning Board of Adjustment : February 4th:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

1. 972 Washington Rd. Variance for 2nd dwelling unit approved. All in favor
2. 511 Wallis Rd. (Rand Lumber): Variance for single residence in a commercial zone was approved, all in favor. Variance to allow driveway to access road with more traffic was denied, 3 to 2.
3. 26 Ordione Rd. Variance for re-configuring steps and landing approved, all in favor.

Zoning Board of Adjustment: March 4th:

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. 127 Clark Rd.: Setback variances for addition
2. 1126 Ocean Blvd: Setback variances for block wall
3. 39 Parson's Rd.: Setback variances and work within the wetlands buffer

Conservation Commission Meeting February 19th:

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

Current Town Meeting Minutes: Not Available

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

1. Wetlands application, 59 Harbor Rd., Site walk scheduled for 2/24 (0:27 elapsed)
2. 561 South Rd. (Rye Farm). Letter of intent regarding Town purchase of Lot 5 has been presented by D.D. Cook to the Planning Board. There are still a lot of contingencies and no Purchase and Sale Agreement has been signed, but that is the intent of Conservation Commission. Once that has been done, D.D. Cook will go before the Planning Board with a plan to develop the other four lots (actually one already has a house on it). (14:41 elapsed)

Beach Committee November 20th:

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

NOTE: The BOS has suspended the Beach Commission and appointed a "Beach Committee" whose final report was submitted at the November 24 BOS meeting. [Click Here](#) Committee is not currently meeting.

NOTE: Selectmen have approved a warrant article that would dissolve the Beach Commission, to be voted on March 10th.

Demolition Review Committee February 18th

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

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

1. Rand Lumber Barn proposed to be demolished. Public Hearing March 18th 1:00 pm Town Hall
2. The South Road School is available for anyone who can remove the building. [Click Here](#)

Heritage Commission Meeting February 5th:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Rich Davis will be the new chairman.
2. Graveyard Project Certificate presentation to Brenda Wheatley and Mark LaBounty for grave site on their property.
3. Signs and mailer approved for supporting Town Hall restoration and expansion.

Rye Energy Committee Meeting February 3rd:

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

Town Meeting minutes:[Click Here](#)

Rye Recycling Education Committee February 18th

Meeting Notes and additional information. [Click Here](#)

1. There will be a citizens warrant article for the SMART (Save Money and Reduce Trash) program that will have residents purchase bags that are required for the trash compactor at the Transfer station. See the Waste Zero presentation for Rye. [Click Here](#)
- 2 The food composting program was discussed and there will not be a warrant article for funding. This program shifts considerable amount of weight to composting from the landfill. See Mr. Fox video [click here](#)

Historic District Commission May 6th

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

Town Meeting minutes: Click Here

Mosquito Commission Meeting January 5th:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: Nothing posted

Agenda: [Click Here](#) This is very informative

Vacancy on Commission: If interested call Nine six four - five five two three

1. Commission is recommending a different outsourced contractor for this year. Selectmen are currently reviewing both bids (see January 26th BOS for discussion).

Recreation Commission Meeting February 2nd:

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

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Capital Improvement Plan Committee October 29th:

Learn more about the Capital Improvement Plan: [Click Here](#)

To see the current CIP [Click Here](#)

1. The CIP Committee has completed the 2015-2020 plan. It includes "Total Capital Costs" of \$16.499 million over the period, of which:

\$0.57 million is Category 1 (to secure life and property)

\$7.464 million is Category 2 (to maintain the present standard of living)

\$8.465 million is Category 3 (to improve the community)

2. The CIP expenditure for 2015 is planned to be \$1.609 million, excluding Town Hall, which would be bonded for \$3.8 million in that year so is not included in the total. Major projects are:

- Town Hall (2015): \$3.800 million

- Recreation Community Center (2016): \$2.475 million

- Additional Conservation Bond (2017): \$3.000 million

- Fresh Water Treatment Plant (2018): \$5.500 million

Climate Change Workshops:

These have been completed and there was a presentation to the BOS, but actions have yet been committed to. Residents need to continue to insist the town updates the Master Plan and the town boards act accordingly.

Town Page with reference documents: [Click Here](#)

New FEMA maps: [Click Here](#)

Documents from Workshop #4

21 Things You Can Do: [Click Here](#)

28 Things A Municipality Can Do: [Click Here](#)

Overview of Rye, County and State Activities: [Click Here](#)

Vulnerability Assessment: [Click Here](#)

From Tides and Storm Preparing for NH's Future Coast: [Click Here](#)

NH Climate Change Past and Future: [Click Here](#)

Work Shop #4 RPL Presentation: [Click Here](#)

1. A lot was discussed, including how these findings need to be incorporated into the Master Plan. [Click Here](#) for a brief summary of the program and four workshops.

Rye Opinions:

The Rye Civic League Website posts opinions and discussions for Rye.

These opinions reflect the views of residents, **NOT** the Rye Civic League.

The purpose is to help residents share their views and to have an online discussion between residents. We encourage you to share your opinions in the online discussions or sending an e-mail to the RCL [e-mail](#)

Recent posted opinions:

561 South Rd Development: Resident Information [Click Here](#)

- Petition for planning board: [Click Here](#)

- Map of Lot 5 [Click Here](#)

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

Older opinionRecent Developments in Rye: [Click Here](#)

Rye Public Forum Discussion Topics:

Once the RCL monthly meeting concludes, there is a public forum discussion about some of current topics in town. All are welcome to join this discussion and introduce town related topics.

Last meeting, these and more topics were discussed:

1. Deliberative meeting
2. Town Hall vote, how will it go.
3. Warrant Articles, what people thought

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

3/1/2015

Rye Civic News March 2015 from the RCL

Rye Civic League: civicnews@ryecivicleague.org

Steven Borne - President

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to s.borne@comcast.net by civicnews@ryecivicleague.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

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