

Rye Civic News March 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 \(click here\)](#)

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: Will be March 29th 6:30 pm
Location Rye Public Library

The 2015 Citizens Handbook is available.
[Click Here](#) Hard copies available at RPL, Hungry Horse, Town Hall...

Upcoming Town Meetings and Events

(at Town Hall unless indicated)

March 7th: Long Range Planning (Master Plan) 12:00 pm

March 7th: Recreation Commission 6:00 pm

March 7th: Historic District Commission 7:00 pm

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

March 8th: Sewer Commission 8:00 am RBVD Building

March 14th: Board of Selectmen 6:30 pm

March 15th: Conservation Trail Management Town Forest Walk 3:00 pm

March 16th: School Board 6:00 pm

March 17th: Long Range Planning (Master Plan) 12:00 pm

March 17th: Conservation Commission 7:00 pm

Town Election Support: Tuesday, March 8th RES

Polls open 8:00 am to 7:00 pm

[Click Here](#) for the Town Ballot

[Click Here](#) for the School Ballot

[Click Here](#) the short table of warrant articles.

Printable My Voting Notes (from BOS newsletter): [Click Here](#)

Candidate Bio's [Click Here](#)

Candidates' Night Video Recording: [Click Here](#) Time Stamps [Click Here](#)

RCL Warrant Articles Overview: [Click Here](#)

RCL Budget Overview: [Click Here](#)

RCL Information on Town Buildings and Space: [Click Here](#)

RCL Deliberative Meeting Notes and Video times: [Click Here](#)

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

School Deliberative Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Rye Tavern Discussions: [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 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) Town Deliberative Meeting: Who was there and who wasn't and why? [Click Here](#)

b) Parson's Creek Pollution: What is and is not happening [Click Here](#)

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

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

General Announcements:

Weatherization Workshop: March 12th RPL 10:00 am [more information](#)

How good was our Library in 2015: [Click Here](#) to find out

RCL 2015 Citizen's Handbook: [Click Here](#) Hard copies have been distributed around town (Town Hall, Library, RJH, Hungry Horse....)

Food Composting at the Transfer Station Open to Everyone: [Click Here](#) and see video from RJH student [Click Here](#)

Rye Recreation Senior Program (updated): 2015-2016 Active, Alive and over 55 [Click Here](#)

Rye Recreation Spring Registrations: [Click Here](#)

Rye Recreation Summer Programs Registration: [Click here](#)

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

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

Rye Little League: [Click Here](#)

Seacoast Lacrosse: [Click Here](#)

March 26th: Rye Water District Annual Meeting
10:00 am RJH

March 28th: Board of Selectmen 6:30 pm

April 9th: Jenness Beach Village Precinct Annual Meeting. 5:00 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](#)

Jenness Beach Budget: [Click Here](#)

Board of Selectmen Meeting February 22nd:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. The consultant reported on the results of the Ocean Blvd. Parking Study. The first-year capital investment would be \$228,350 to do the area near Jenness Beach. Annual profit starting the second year would be approximately \$200,000. [More Detail](#)

2. Beth Yeaton will be retiring as Town Clerk at the end of April. [More Detail](#)

3. The Selectmen approved a letter of intent allowing the Heritage Commission to begin seeking grants to place the bell from the Old South School in the existing Town Hall, or if torn down, in a new Town Hall. [More Detail](#)

4. The Selectmen will not unseal the Town Hall Committee non-public minutes relating to the 541 Washington Rd. acquisition, the subject of the \$460,000 Warrant Article 4 this year, until after the election. [More Detail](#)

5. Beach permit applications will be reviewed in a single session sometime after the March 1 application deadline. [More Detail](#)

Rye Districts Information:

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

1. Independent powers to levy taxes.

2. Own officers, budgets and warrant articles.

3. Governed through annual old-style town meetings. All registered voters in areas taxed by district may vote, regardless of services received.

4. Services may include water, fire hydrants, street lights, sidewalks and trees, depending on district.

Rye Water District prct 004

District Meeting: March 26th 10:00 am RJH

[Click Here](#) for warrant

Rye Water Annual Budget: [Click Here](#)

1. Warrant article for \$1,196,892 operating budget.

2. Warrant articles for \$60,000 in funding for various reserves.

3. Petitioned warrant article to provide for an official ballot for the election of Water District officers

Rye Beach Village District prct 002

District Meeting: April ??

RBVD Budget: [Click Here](#)

RBVD Treasurer's Report: [Click Here](#)

[Click Here](#) to see an approximate map of the RBVD

Jenness Beach Village District prct 003

District Meeting: April 9th 5 pm Town Hall

JBVD Budget: [Click Here](#)

[Click Here](#) to see an approximate map of JBVD

Budget Committee Precincts Public Hearing: February 2nd

Town video recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. The Rye Beach Village District budget was tabled after Commissioner Frank Drake explained that their Treasurer had "skipped town" and they were in disarray. [More Detail](#)

2. The Jenness Beach Village District budget, as well as a warrant article for \$30,000 for street light replacement with LEDs, were unanimously recommended. [More Detail](#)

3. The Rye Water District budget was tabled after concerns were

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

Rye Police Homepage

Click Here
Facebook: Click Here

Rye Beach Committee Facebook Page Click Here**Other Helpful Links:**

Live Free or Die Alliance

expressed about a \$40,000 jump in the Plant Operating Expense. While the increase is only about \$44,000 over 2015, debt has matured, reducing the debt service by approximately \$102,000. Before debt service, the operating budget is up 15.6 percent. [More Detail](#)

School Board February 29th Meeting:

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

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

Draft Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

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

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

[Click Here](#) to see budget sections (at the bottom)

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

1. A large number of parents attended to hear the proposed structure for teachers at the RJH.

RJH Draft Goal Statement: [Click Here](#)

Explanation Hand out: [Click Here](#)

Letter to Parents: [Click Here](#)

Planning Board meeting: February 9th:

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

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

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Public Forum: Parson's Creek Pollution January 13th:

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

FB Environmental 13 Jan. 2016 Presentation: [Click Here](#)

Pollution Report from 2015 Testing: [Click Here](#)

[Click Here](#) for reports and other information on the pollution.

1. Lack of storm water runoff management, failed septic systems and other factors are polluting the Parson's Creek Watershed
2. For 35 years testing has confirmed septic system pollution.
3. 104 col/100mL is the upper limit, a sample greater then 24,000 col/100ml was found (see page 17 of the 2015 report) with many others above 3,000 col/100ml
4. Rye has received over \$170K in State grants, with Rye's contributions being "contributions in kind" from the DPW and Planning Administrator.
5. Rye does not currently have dedicated funding to accelerate corrective actions.

February 18th LRP Meeting:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

1. The LRP Committee is continuing to work with Julie LaBranche from the RPC to draft a Climate Change chapter for the Master Plan. Chair Anne Crotty related the concerns by a planning board alternate member regarding using the words "Climate Change" to describe the Chapter. Julie LaBranche is planning to attend the Planning Board meeting on March 1st, to discuss certain issues voiced by planning board members.

Planning Board March 1st Agenda:

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

1. Outdoor Pride requesting exemption from the Site Review process
2. RPC to discuss the proposed Master Plan Changes for Climate Change

Zoning Board of Adjustment: February 3rd:

Recorded Video [Click Here:](#)

Agenda for the meeting: [Click Here](#)

1. 45 Washington Rd. issues expansion of second floor where side setback is not currently met
2. 31 Parsons Rd. issues modifications to previously approved plans
3. 472 Wallis Rd. issues septic system outside of the setbacks
4. 12 Huntervale Ave. issues expansion outside of the setback and exceeds allowed lot coverage
5. 1399 Ocean Blvd. variances for height of 3rd floor
6. 17 Foss Circle issue issues requests for patio, generator and wall outside of the setbacks

Zoning Board of Adjustment: March 2nd Agenda:

[Click Here](#) for agenda

[Click Here](#) for the meeting video

Conservation Commission Meeting February 18th

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

Conservation Land Maps: [Click Here](#)

Town Forest map: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Minutes not posted

RCL Meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

1. Wetland Application: 1313 Ocean Blvd, Lot 1. Tear down of an existing "8 bedrooms" rental unit and to rebuild 2 units with 3 bedrooms and 1 unit with 2 bedroom. A site walk is planned for March 1st at 5:00 PM.
2. Wetland Application: 2250 Ocean Blvd. Tear down of existing structure to rebuild a new structure. A site walk is planned for March 1st at 5:45 PM.
3. Forming a Town Forest Trail Committee as a subcommittee of the Conservation Commission. Member Jeff Gardner will be serving on the subcommittee as a representative of the CC.
4. Monitoring Town Properties: a) The Southeast Land Trust will no longer monitor conservation easements in which the Town holds grantee; b) A letter from an abutter to the Rand Lumber conservation easement asking to consider allowing hunting on that parcel.
5. New Business. The CC would like wetland applications on their agenda to list all variance relief and relevant information.
6. Non Public Session: Acquisition.

Budget Committee Meeting February 17th:

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Not posted

1. Rye Beach Village District and Rye Water District budgets were unanimously recommended after having been tabled at the February 2, 2016 meeting.
2. Despite the fact that the meeting notice stated that this was a public hearing, no resident input was accepted until after the votes had been taken.
3. The Budget Committee members were starting to finalize the budget by signing the necessary forms prior to the conclusion of public testimony, which would have violated RSA 32:5, I.

Budget Committee Meeting February 10th:

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Not posted

1. Budget Committee voted unanimously to continue to recommend the School Budget after the School Board reduced it by \$60,000 at the Deliberative Session to reflect removal of an additional bus route as the Portsmouth High School schedule will not be changing.
2. The Budget Committee was provided documents demonstrating an arithmetic miscalculation in the heating oil budget, but refused to lower its recommendation to reflect the correct calculation.

Beach Committee December 16th Meeting:

Facebook Page [Click Here](#)

Last Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Not posted yet

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

Beach Parking Report: [Click Here](#)

Beach Committee December 16th Meeting:

Facebook Page [Click Here](#)

Last Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Not posted yet

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

Beach Parking Report: [Click Here](#)

Recreation Commission February 1st:

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](#)

Spring program Registrations: [Click Here](#)

Summer program Registrations: [Click Here](#)

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

1. RRL new scoreboard is approved with conditions
2. Discussion of declining enrollment in the Summertime Horeyezones Day camp.
3. First Recreation space needs meeting scheduled for February 29th [Click Here](#) for video recording of that meeting. *Editors Note: Seacoast Youth Sports team rallied to attend the Portsmouth CIP meeting to push for additional youth sports playing fields.*

Heritage Commission Meeting February 4th

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Efforts continue to secure grant money to maintain the Town Hall building. First efforts will be with the belfry.
2. Commission will move forward with the cupola and the bell. A letter was drafted to be sent to the Selectmen.
3. Seven to Save Application has much interesting information. [Click Here](#) to see the Seven to Save Application.

Heritage Commission Meeting March 3rd

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

Recorded Video: Held at the library

Town Meeting minutes: too early

1. Discussion of "save the bell" program.
2. Commission voted unanimously (including Selectmen's Representative Priscilla Jenness) to recommend a "no" vote on Article 4, the 541 Washington Rd. acquisition for \$460,000.
3. The Chairman will write a letter to the editor indicating that the Commission is recommending a yes vote on Article 22 (to include consideration of options including saving the Town Hall) and a no vote on Article 4.

Rye Energy Committee Meeting: February 2nd:

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

1. REC would like to be involved in any Town Hall discussions, as there are Town Hall energy efficiency components.
2. There are now Energy Posters for all town buildings. These will stay as

is until new information is available.

3. Public Safety building continues to be the least efficient building. Town budget is needed to make improvements.

4. Committee is working with Jenness Beach District to get the inefficient street lights replaced, working with Eversource, NHDOT and investigating grant or loan options for the district.

5. Pursuing grants to help Adams Park trailers install insulating skirts to help prevent the current problems with freezing pipes. REC is looking at holding a weatherization education night at RPL for Adams Park and others.

Rye Recycling Education Committee February 16th

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: Not available

1. 27.5 Tons of food waste was collected this past year and the tons going to the landfill were reduced by almost that same amount.

2. Food waste recycling can be greatly increased. By comparison Eliot (6,200) composts much more food waste, while Rye (5,200) sends three times more trash (by weight) to the landfill.

Historic District Commission February 11th Meeting

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1, Dis

Trustees of the Trust Fund February 11th Meeting

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes:

Library Board of Trustees February 11th

Trustee Home Page: [Click Here](#)

Library Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Mosquito Commission Meeting January 26th

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

Town Meeting Minutes: Nothing posted for September

Video of meeting: [Click Here](#)

Sewer Commission Meeting February 9th:

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

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

Capital Improvements Committee: October 14th

2016-2021 CIP Plan: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: BOS meeting presentation [Click Here](#)

1. CIP presentation to the BOS starts at 3:45 minutes [More Detail](#)

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:

Rye Town Hall Project Running off the rails. [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 discussed:

1. Warrant Articles and BOS Electioneering
2. Parson's Creek January 13th presentation.

2014 Climate Change Workshops:

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](#)

[Click Here](#) for a brief summary of the program and four workshops.

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

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

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