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Rye Civic News

*from the Rye Civic League***May 2014****"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:
May 29th 6:30pm RPL

RCL annual meeting
June 12th - RPL 7:30pm

Upcoming Town Meetings and Events

May 5th: Recreation Commission 6:00 pm

May 5th: Climate Change Workshop 6:30pm RJH

May 5th: Beach Commission 5:30 pm RPL .

May 6th: Historic District Commission 5:30 pm

May 6th: Energy Committee 6:30pm RPL.

May 6th: Town Hall Committee 6:30 pm

May 7th: Board of Adjustment 7:00pm.

May 8th: Capital Improvement Plan 6:30pm.

May 9th: Demolition Review 9:00 am

May 10th: Bike Rodeo 1pm to 3pm.

May 12th: Board of Selectmen 6:30pm.

Annual Rye Civic League Membership Drive

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. It is free to be on the distribution list for Rye Civic News, but the RCL does have costs (website, distribution software,) so once a year we ask our readers to contribute \$12 a year or gifts in kind (fund the RCL Town Handbook or other activities) and be an RCL Member. Members also participate in the annual meeting on June 12th. Everyone is always invited to the monthly RCL meetings the last Thursday of each month.

[Click Here](#) to make an online payment.

[Click Here](#) to read the invitation and complete the membership form

General Announcements:

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

Rye Senior Serve: 2013-2014 Active, Alive and over 55 [Click Here](#)

Bike Rodeo: May 10th 1pm to 3pm [Click Here](#)

Bike to School & Work Day: May 16th

Rye History Museum: New Exhibit: [Click Here](#)

Rye History Trolley Tour: May 24th 10am: [Click Here](#)

New FEMA Maps are available: [Click Here](#)

Climate Change Workshops: May 5th at 6:30pm RJH

May 5th Workshop event flyer: [Click Here](#)

New FEMA maps: [Click Here](#)

Portsmouth Herald article on FEMA maps: [Click Here](#)

RCL Hosted Discussion: [Click Here](#) for online discussion

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

RCL meeting notes: [Click Here](#) Includes time stamps for the video

Town Summary of April 1 Workshop results; [Click Here](#)

[Click Here](#) for workshop overview and timeline

[Click Here](#) for informational handouts from April 1st workshop

[Click Here](#) for Portsmouth's plan: [Click Here](#) for Seabrook's plan:

[Click Here](#) for presentation from Prof. Cameron Wake

Board of Selectmen Meeting April 28th:

Video Recording [Click Here](#):

RCL Meeting Summary: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: not available yet

May 13th: Planning Board
7:00pm.

May 15th: School Board RJH
3:30 pm

May 15th: Conservation
Commission: 7:00pm.

May 22nd: Climate Change
Steering 1pm

May 22nd: Capital
Improvement Plan 6:30pm.

May 27th: Board of
Selectmen 6:30pm.

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 Budgets
2014 Town Budget [Click Here](#).
2014 Budget Executive Summary [Click Here](#)
RCL Budget Presentation
[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 full 2014-2015 School Budget.

Rye Trust Fund
Summary:
[Click Here](#)

1. Beach permits were granted for Cinnamon Rainbows (maximum surf camp size 25) and Summer Sessions (maximum surf camp size 35). The application from The Shack was tabled due to unanswered questions and a representative not being present. [More Detail](#)

2. Enforcement action approved for cottages at 32 Cable Rd. which are occupied year-round despite apparent lack of approval. Selectman Mills voted against and stated that he will be on the other side in court. [More Detail](#)

3. New flood maps are introduced ([Click Here](#)). More properties are in the Velocity Zone (subject to wave action). [More Detail](#)

BOS Beach Meeting with State Reps April 29th:

RCL Video Recording [Click Here:](#)

RCL Meeting Summary: [Click Here](#)

This was a Meeting between the BOS and our State Representatives

1. Selectmen report two beach permits issued already under the new program. [More Detail](#)

2. New Regional Supervisor for Seacoast State Parks discusses new regulations and enforcement. [More Detail](#)

3. Fireworks and sky lanterns were discussed. [More Detail](#)

Board of Selectmen Meeting April 14th:

Video Recording [Click Here:](#)

RCL Meeting Summary: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: Not Available yet

1. Several abatements, some substantial, were approved. [More Detail](#)

2. The front end loader bids came in above the \$175,000 appropriated by the warrant article, the Town is working to reduce the scope. [More Detail](#)

3. Five member advisory Beach Committee appointed, with Beach Commission to be moribund in the coming year. [More Detail](#)

4. Mae Bradshaw appointed as Historic District Commission representative to the Town Hall Committee. [More Detail](#)

Town Hall Committee meetings April 15th & 22nd:

Final SMP Report: [Click Here](#)

[Click Here](#) for the Facebook page

RCL Discussion page for Town Hall: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes April 15th: [Click Here](#)

April 22nd Meeting video: [Click Here](#)

April 15th Meeting video: [Click Here](#)

Summary update: [Click Here](#)

1. Committee recommended to move forward with SMP Architecture to complete the design process.

2. Members focused on completing the contract for SMP.

3. The aggressive goal is to complete the design process and to have competitive bids prior to the February 2015 Deliberative Town Meeting

School Board April 16th Meeting:

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

School Board meeting minutes (draft): [Click Here](#)

School Budget: [Click Here](#)

RCL Budget Analysis: [Click Here](#)

1. Moving forward with Math in Focus for the math program. Teachers would like more professional development to support the program next year.

2. Suzanne Lull will be designing a brochure to improve RTI communication to parents.

3. Kindergarten and 1st grade registration is in process now.

Rye Library Strategic Plan:

[Click Here](#)

Other Helpful Links:

[Live Free or Die Alliance](#)

4. Access funds (net tuition funds not used) are being returned to the town
5. Looking at adding security cameras to the RJH.
6. More and better detail is needed to better understand why parents are choosing private schools over Rye public education. Inputs from parents is needed.

Planning Board meeting: April 8th:

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

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

Town Planning Board meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

1. 493 and 494 Central Road - Lot line/subdivision of one lot into two lots with new driveways - all voted yes
2. 84 Washington Rd: Lot line adjustment - all voted yes
3. 60 Elwyn Road: Conceptual consultation to create a two lot subdivision, this was a non-public conceptual consultation

Planning Board May 13th Agenda:

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

1. 42 Appledore Ave. Lot Line adjustment
2. Coastal Hazard and Risk Commission update - Note: the meeting agenda incorrectly lists this as a non-public discussion.

Zoning Board of Adjustment : April 2nd:

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. Webster at Rye postponed to May 7th
2. 25 Appledore Ave.: Variances for the new build plan were denied, where the variances for the septic plan and fill wetland set back was approved.
3. 42 and 46 Appledore Ave: Lot line changes for properties approved
4. 11 Manor Drive: Changes for a generator approved
5. 1296 Ocean Blvd: Continued to May 7th
6. 620 Wallis Rd: Front setback variance approved
7. 81 Central Rd: Replace old barn with a new one approved

Zoning Board of Adjustment : May 7th

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

NOTE: This may be moved from the Town Hall to a location that can accommodate more residents for the Webster at Rye discussion.

RCL Online Discussion on Webster at Rye: [Click Here](#)

1. Webster at Rye: Variances and Special Exceptions
Abutters to the Webster at Rye (795 Washington Rd., proposed extension of parking lot into the wetlands buffer) have provided the information below:
 - a. Their opinions and points on this proposal [Click Here](#)
 - b. Obtained a schematic for people to learn more: [Click Here](#)
2. 24 Robin Rd.: Variance for subdivision of lot
3. 385 Sagamore Rd.: Variance for a generator
4. 243 Central Rd.: Variance and relief from building codes.

Conservation \$3 million Bond Legislative cure:

1. 2014 Warrant Article 7, providing \$3 million for conservation, passed with only 7 votes to spare (60% required to pass).
2. No public hearing was held prior to the Deliberative Session, as required by law, making the enactment invalid.

3. Originally, the Selectmen had scheduled a Special Town Meeting for early April to cure the irregularity.
4. However, in a non-public "non-meeting" on March 24 involving the Town Counsel, the Town Moderator and the three State legislators representing Rye, it was apparently determined that the State Legislature would act instead. [Click here](#) for more details.
5. On April 17, an amendment to an existing bill was approved by the State Senate on a voice vote.
6. On April 23 at 9:00 a.m., after having received the bill the night before, the House Municipal and County Government Committee agreed to the amendment with certain members expressing objections. Later that morning the amended bill passed the House by voice vote, no dissent in the Committee having been revealed on the House floor. [Click here](#) for more details. [Click Here](#) to see an opinion letter to the State Representatives regarding the bill.
7. The bill must still be signed by the Governor to become law.

Conservation Commission Meeting April 17th:

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

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

RCL comments to Meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

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

1. Goss Farm Update [More Detail](#)
2. Webster at Rye Wetlands discussion [More Detail](#)
3. 65 Wallis Rd Site walk to review tree cutting and pond project
4. 71 West Atlantic Ave discussion [More Detail](#)
5. 36 Pioneer Rd. Discussion [More Detail](#)
6. 16 Berry's Brook Lane letter
7. 511 Wallis Rd (Rand Lumber) Site walk
8. Wetlands correspondence

Additionally:

9. See a resident's review process shortcomings from the 2003 \$5M Conservation investment. [Click Here](#)

Conservation Commission Meeting April 8th:

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

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

1. 71 West Atlantic Ave Site Walk discussion

Demolition Review Committee April 28th

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

April 3rd and 21st Meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

1. 250 Locke Rd was voted to have no historic significance
2. 493 Central Rd with the old South School, the outbuilding was determined to have no historic interest

Note: The town website does not correctly display the name of this committee.

Heritage Commission Meeting April 3rd and May 1st:

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

Meeting Summary from April 3rd and May 1st: [Click Here](#)

1. Rules of Procedures were discussed, mostly around the BOS requirement that there be no alcohol in town buildings.
2. The Adopt a graveyard program is progressing.
3. Conservation Commission requested support for a grant for the Summer sixth grade program to plant strawberries and other plants at Goss Farm.
4. Town Hall Committee has asked for support for public education

concerning the Town Hall restoration.

Rye Energy Committee Meeting April 3rd

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

Rye Energy Committee has an opening. [Click Here](#) to contact REC.

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Poster Project (see the posters at the library)
2. Safety Building Energy Audit update

May 6th: Agenda [Click Here](#)

Historic District Commission April 16th

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

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Beach Commission:

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

Please see the March 14th and 28th BOS notes as major changes have been proposed by the BOS.

There is a meeting on May 5th at 5:30pm at the RPL

Mosquito Commission Meeting March 26th

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

Town Meeting Minutes: Nothing posted

Recreation Commission Meeting April 7th:

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

Town Meeting Minutes:

Agenda for April 7th meeting note posted

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

Capital Improvement Plan Committee April 10th & 24th:

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

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

Town Meeting minutes: April 10th [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: April 24th [Click Here](#)

Rye Master Plan Update:

Note: The Planning Board approved the Master Plan changes on March 4th.

Many in attendance, who have been providing input, did not know that the Planning Board considered March 4th the second Public Hearing and approved the Master Plan. At publication the updated Master plan can't be found on the Town Web Site (approved or draft)

Town Budgets

The Town Executive Summary is also very helpful. [Click Here](#)

Neither the Town nor the Budget Committee provide the "story" about the increasing budgets, so the RCL has created this overview: [Click Here](#)

As of December 2013 the town has **\$3,389,508** in Trust Funds, Capital Reserves. [Click Here](#) for the town document.

The November 14, 2013 RCL notes provide the most detail to the different Town budget discussions. [Click Here](#) for the .pdf of the RCL notes

Other Town Activity

How Good is our Library?

2012 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: 2013 Update is 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 (Peter Crawford and Steven Borne) unless otherwise noted. Questions or comments feel free to contact Alex Herlihy [e-mail](#) or Steven Borne [e-mail](#)

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

President: Alex Herlihy alexherlihy@comcast.net

[Forward email](#)



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