

Rye Civic News May 2015

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:

NEW DATE: May
28th 6:30 pm RPL.

RCL Annual Meeting:

June 11th 7:30 pm
Location TBD

RCL on NHPR:

Story [Click Here](#) audio also available

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

May 4th: Recreation Commission 6:00 pm

May 5th: Rye Energy Committee 6:30pm.

May 6th: Zoning Board of Adjustment 7:00 pm

May 6th School Board Special Issue meeting RJH 7:00 pm

May 7th: Heritage Commission 6:30pm.

May 7th: School Board: RJH 6:00 pm

May 9th Conservation Land Clean up

May 11th: Board of Selectmen 6:30pm.

General Announcements:

Conservation Land Workday: May 9th [Click Here](#)

Bike Rodeo: May 9th 1pm to 3pm Rye Congregational Church [Click Here](#)

Food Composting at the Transfer Station Open to Everyone: [Click Here](#)

Residential Solar Energy Education: May 13th 6:30pm to 8:00pm RPL [Click Here](#)

New Saturday Town Clerk/Tax Collector hours: 9:00am to 12pm

Town Memorial Day Celebration: [Click Here](#) for details

Bike/Walk to Work Day May 15th: [Click Here](#)

Rye Recreation Senior Program: 2014-2015 Active, Alive and over 55 [Click Here](#)

Rye Recreation Summer Programs: [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

Appointed and Alternate Positions:

There are many opportunities to serve. A few examples are:

- Energy Committee
- Recycling Education Committee has an opening
- Beach Committee has an opening
- New Town Hall Committee has openings, communicate to the BOS before the May 11th meeting.
- Rye Recreation Needs assessment
- There maybe Alternates and many other positions available, but the RCL has yet to update with all of the new appointments. [Click Here](#) to see the pre-election list (not updated). 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.

Board of Selectmen Meeting April 27th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: not available yet.

1. Resident request for striping of parking spaces along Ocean Blvd. will not be accommodated this year, although a site walk to look at striping of driveways, crosswalks and intersections will be conducted on April 29. [More Detail](#) [Click Here](#) for 4-29 RCL Video, [Click Here](#) for time stamps
2. Comcast franchise agreement renewal will continue the terms of the prior contract, using the informal process option. A public hearing will still be required. [More Detail](#)
3. The Police Department camera system failed, necessitating a \$20,750 unplanned expenditure from the Capital Outlay budget line item (in which \$25,000 for Ocean Blvd. striping had also been budgeted). [More Detail](#)
4. The Selectmen approved a resident request to move the former Rand

May 12th: Sewer Commission 8:00am.

May 12th: Planning Board 7:00pm.

May 21st: Conservation Commission 7:00pm.

May 25th: Memorial Day celebration

May 26th Board of Selectmen meeting.

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](#).

Jeness Beach Budget: [Click Here](#)

School Budget:
Here is a link to the Proposed 2015-2016 School Budget.

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

Lumber barn across Wallis Rd. [More Detail](#)

5. The vacancy in the Fire Department will be filled, but that person will, when possible, be required to fill shifts to ensure that two firefighters are on duty, rather than using the overtime budget. [More Detail](#)

Board of Selectmen Meeting April 13th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Summer Sessions beach permit tabled for two weeks after e-mail from resident expresses concern about possible activities last year beyond the scope of the permit. [More Detail](#)
2. Public Safety Building Energy audit reveals shortcomings in the construction and configuration leading to energy waste. [More Detail](#)
3. Winter-related costs will be \$45,000 to \$60,000 above budget. It appears that, rather than reducing the paving budget to compensate, other surplus areas will be reallocated to address the shortfall, rather than returned to taxpayers as in past years. [More Detail](#)
4. Recycling Center sticker implementation is proceeding. These will be free to Rye residents, but may be offered to North Hampton residents for a fee. [More Detail](#)
5. The Selectmen question whether filling a Fire Department position is needed as it would place a third person on one of four shifts. Further study is needed. [More Detail](#)
6. The charge for a new Town Hall Committee was approved. [Click Here](#). Renovation of the existing Town Hall, demolition and construction of a new building, and construction of a new building on another site will be considered, as well as any other options identified. [More Detail](#)

Board of Selectmen Meeting April 29th Beach Site Walk:

RCL Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: not available yet.

1. The BOS walked Ocean Blvd. to identify where the town will stripe for no parking.
2. The RCL notes [Click Here](#) lists the address and time on the video to hear what the BOS discussed.

Board of Selectmen Meeting April 9th: Beach Issues

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Police Chief Walsh presented a detailed analysis of parking along Route 1A indicating that there are 51 driveways that may need to be "boxed." A final decision will be made after a site walk. [More Detail](#).
2. The 2015 budget is insufficient to stripe parking spaces along Route 1A. [More Detail](#).
3. Selectman Musselman contradicted his statement on April 29, 2014 that the ball was in the Town's court with regard to parking meters. He now says that, since no money was budgeted in 2015 for a parking study, the earliest that meters could be installed is 2017. He argues that that would depend on an agreement with the State, notwithstanding his earlier statement, a specific inquiry by Senator Stiles and a State law specifically authorizing towns to install meters. [More Detail](#).
4. Specific Beach Committee recommendations regarding permit fees, mobile lifeguard stands and stand-up paddleboard issues failed to lead to firm commitments by the Selectmen for further action. [More Detail](#).
5. Projected lifeguard need for this summer is 13-17, however only six lifeguards from last year have expressed an interest in returning. The Head Lifeguard will not be returning. [More Detail](#).

Rye Library Strategic Plan:

[Click Here](#)

Rye Police Homepage

[Click Here](#)

Facebook: [Click Here](#)

Other Helpful Links:

[Live Free or Die Alliance](#)

6. Investigation of Parsons Creek watershed problems is continuing. Bacteria level near Peteys is nine times the acceptable limit. [More Detail](#)

School Board April 15th Meeting Minutes:

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

Meeting Minutes: Not Posted

Superintendents Bulletin: April [Click Here](#)

No Notes available for Civic News

1. May 6th Special meeting - follow up from March 26th meeting
2. Scott Marion will chair this year with Mike Moody as the Vice Chair.
3. The cracks in the RES walls were evaluated by a structural engineer and do not impact the structural integrity of the building
4. Kindergarten teacher Anne Barr is retiring.
5. Resident requested that RES evaluate the STAR results of those 5th graders not planning on attending RJH vs. those planning on RJH.
6. SAU 50 Curriculum Committee provided a formalized statement for the purpose for Math education, more information when the School Board meeting notes are posted.
7. A 5th grade teacher is moving to 3rd Grade and 5th Grade will have 3 teachers with each dedicated to Math, Language Arts or Science. All three will teach Social Studies.
8. There will be a new dress code for RJH next year and it will be documented in the handbook.
9. 2015/2016 School Calendar was approved, but it is not posted yet

School Board - March 26th Special meeting Overview:

1. Some attendees had a different understanding of the purpose.
2. The goal is to establish the bar for our expectations for students graduating from RJH. Once that is defined, the teachers and administrators can propose options for meeting the expectations as student numbers fluctuate.
3. May 6th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at RJH is the next discussion on this topic.

Planning Board meeting: April 14th:

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](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. 23 Spring Road: Second Driveway request approved all in favor
2. 464 Bracket Road Subdivision: Approved all in favor with list of 20 conditions of approval
3. 561 South Rd (Rye Farm): Site development approved - all in favor with 21 conditions of approval. The Conditional Use permit with 16 points was also approved all in favor. [Click Here](#) to see all of the conditions as listed on the town meeting minutes.
4. Summary of 561 South Rd Development
 - a) Originally proposed as 5 residential lots (including one with the original house), with the largest lot (lot 5) discussed as a Retirement Community Development.
 - b) Water management complexities as the property is in the Aquifer and Wellhead protection district and public concerns helped lead to a hydro geologic review.
 - c) In addition to accommodations made to the direct abutters (of South Rd), the builder reduced the project to 3 new lots (down from four) with Lot 5 sold to the town of Rye. The appraised value is \$440,000 with the Conservation Commission currently working to find other funds and grants for the \$350,000 purchase price, before utilizing the current Conservation Land Fund (\$3M less the \$1.25M used for the land behind the former Rand Lumber Condo Development).

d) 580 South Road, the house that is T-boned by the new street is having the mailbox moved as the only accommodation.

Planning Board May 12th Agenda:

Next Planning Board Meeting Agenda: Not Posted yet

Zoning Board of Adjustment : April 1st:

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. 39 Parsons Rd setback variances approved all in favor
2. 150 Harbor Rd appealing of Selectman's decision of February 23, 2015. ZBA granted an Administrative appeal to the applicant. Approved, all in favor
3. 25 Oak Ave. expansion of a second floor: Continued pending a survey

Zoning Board of Adjustment: May 6th:

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. 25 Oak Ave.: Expansion of existng house
2. 32 Old Beach Rd.: Addition to the second floor
3. 1230 Ocean Blvd: Adding dormers to existing cottage
4. 1232 Ocean Blvd.: Adding a deck
5. 1126 Ocean Blvd.: Expanding existing building

Rye Water District Meeting April 1st:

About 2/3 of Rye is in the Rye Water District and "own" the business of providing and maintaining water and fire hydrants to those residents. This charter was expanded at the 2015 meeting since RWD will now be providing some water to a Greenland Development.

RCL Video of April 1st Meeting: [Click Here](#)

RCL Summary with Time stamps: [Click Here](#)

1. March 28th Annual Meeting ([Click Here](#) for RCL video) all articles passed with the exception of the SB2 Petitioned article (allowing residents to vote at the Town Election vs. the annual meeting).
2. The State is going after the bond of Hugo Key, contractor for the water main project, due to some sort of issue
3. Portsmouth Water will be studying the impacts of blending Rye and Portsmouth water (chemical analysis).
4. Discussion of issues when Rye provided water to Portsmouth when Sagamore Bridge was down. Also discussion of Portsmouth and Rye Water Treatment plant plans.

Jenness Beach District Annual Meeting April 11th:

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

RCL video: [Click Here](#)

1. Budget of \$100,050 and all other articles approved. Several officers elected in uncontested races. [More Detail](#)
2. Discussion of beach and sign issues. [More Detail](#)
3. Rye Energy Committee member Michele Sopher gave a presentation pointing out a \$9000 annual savings from the conversion of 69 streetlights to LEDs. A committee was formed to look further into this. [More Detail](#)

Conservation Commission Meeting April 16th:

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

Conservation Land Maps: [Click Here](#)

Town Forrest Map: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Minutes: Not posted

1. Invasive control work volunteers needed [Click Here](#)
2. Working on funding (\$350,000) for 561 South Rd. Appraisal came in at \$440,000.

Beach Committee:

NOTE: The town voted in favor of dissolving the Beach Commission and the 2015 Selectman's Beach Committee was established for one year.

1. [Click Here](#) for the 2015 Charter
2. Current 1 year appointments are Larry Rocha, Keper Connell, Steve Hillman and Lori Carbajal. A fifth position is not yet filled.

Recreation Commission Meeting April 20th:

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

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

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: Not available

Demolition Review Committee March 18th

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

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

RCL Meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

1. 511 Wallis Rd. Rand Lumber Barn: Discussion of moving it to 496 Wallis Rd.
2. Discussion of 4 Washington Rd. Public Hearing March 26th at 1:00 pm

Heritage Commission Meeting April 2nd:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

Rye Energy Committee Meeting April 7th:

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

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. The RREC (Rye Recycling Education Committee) was sunsetted, A new RREC might be appointed with a new charge (see below).
2. Solar Program for Residents is being offered Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 6:30-8:00 at the Rye Public Library. [Click Here](#)
3. The group working on The Public Safety Building Energy Audit received a draft of the results of the audit and will meet for comments and questions before presenting the final report to the BOS. Note, this was presented to the BOS April 13th.
4. Jenness Beach District - The REC would like to offer information about cost effective, energy efficient street lights (there are 69 in the district). Note, REC did present on April 11th.
5. REC has an opening for a committee member.

Rye Recycling Education Committee April 7th

Committee did not meet

1. BOS has created a new charge for the RREC [Click Here](#)
2. Current members are Lorrie Platt, Jozef Platt (student member), Joan Provencher, John Provencher, Deidre Smyrnos and there is an opening for one more additional committee member.

Historic District Commission May 6th

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

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Mosquito Commission Meeting April 21st:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: Nothing posted

Video of March 25th meeting: [Click Here](#)

Sewer Commission Meeting April 14th:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: Nothing posted

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

1. The Sewer commission is moving out of Town Hall and will rent the upstairs space from the Rye Beach Village District building. The first floor is rented to the US Post Office, for Rye's other US Post Office on Central Rd.

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 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](#)

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:

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

Older opinion Recent 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.

Topics for May 28th meeting

1. Town Hall Committee
2. Rye Recreation needs
3. Developments - what is coming next
4. Master Plan updates, what will the plan be?

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

Rye Civic League: civicnews@ryecivicleague.org Steven Borne - President

Forward email



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