

Rye Civic News

from the Rye Civic League

November 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: December 1st 6:30 pm RPL

(meetings are the 4th
Wednesday of the month
unless noted)

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

Nov. 3rd: Recreation
Commission 6:00pm

November 4th: VOTE

Nov. 5th: Zoning Board of
Adjustment 7:00 pm

Nov. 6th: Heritage
Commission 6:30pm.

Nov. 6th: School Budget
Review 6:00 pm

Nov. 10th School Budget
workshop

Nov. 10th: Board of
Selectmen 6:30 pm
- Conservation
Commission Public
Hearing will be the first item

Nov. 12th: Planning Board
7:00pm

Nov. 13th: Demolition
Commission, Old South

November 4th Election Support:

[Click Here](#) for information on the full ballot and links to other candidates
Sample Ballot [Click Here](#) Absentee Ballot form [Click Here](#)

State Representative: Candidates Night Video [Click Here](#)

David Borden: [Click Here](#) for website

Dan Hughes: nothing found

Tom Sherman: [Click Here](#) for website

Ray Tweedie: [Click Here](#)

State Senator Candidates Night Video [Click Here](#)

Nancy Stiles [Website](#)

Chris Muns [Website](#)

Executive Council Candidates Night Video [Click Here](#)

Robin McLane [Click Here](#) for Website

Chris Sununu [Click Here](#) for website

LFDA Election Support: [Click Here](#) LFDA Voter Mobile App [Click Here](#)

General Announcements:

NH Made Open Houses: Nov. 8th and 9th [Click Here](#) for more details

Public Hearing on Conservation Purchase of former Rand Lumber

Property: Nov. 10th at 6:30 pm [Click Here](#) for details

NH Button UP Workshop: Weatherization tips Nov. 19th 6pm RPL

Rye Recreation Senior Program: 2014-2015 Active, Alive and over 55

[Click Here](#)

Rye Open Positions and Alternates (not updated) [Click Here](#)

Public Forum Discussion Topics: [Click Here](#)

October 7th Health Care Forum Video: [Click Here](#) for video

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

Board of Selectmen Meeting October 27th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: not available yet.

1. Treasurer Leon Blaisdell passed away. Jane Ireland was appointed
Treasurer through the 2015 election. [More Detail](#)

2. Health insurance rates will be down significantly next year, allowing
significant budget reductions. [More Detail](#)

3. The town-owned Parsonage Apartments needs a new roof and other
improvements. The management firm, the Housing Partnership suggested
that the building be sold to them. [More Detail](#)

4. Selectmen reject sponsorship of pay-as-you-throw trash program
warrant article, encourage submission of draft petitioned warrant articles in
December. [More Detail](#)

5. Selectman Mills opposes sponsorship of a warrant article increasing the
Heritage Commission from five to seven members. [More Detail](#)

6. Decision on warrant article eliminating Beach Commission is deferred
until Beach Committee report has been received. [More Detail](#)

School 9:00 am

Nov. 13th Budget
Committee 9:00 am

Nov. 20th: Conservation
Commission 7:00 pm

Nov. 24th: Board of
Selectmen 6:30 pm.

Nov. 25th: Town Hall
Committee 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)

GIS Parcel Data: 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

Rye Library Strategic
Plan:

Click Here

Other Helpful Links:

7. Selectmen agree to warrant article banning fireworks. [More Detail](#)

8. Rye may leave the Solid Waste District. Despite Selectman Musselman's firm doing work for the District, he failed to recuse himself from the discussion. [More Detail](#)

9. Booting ordinance to be drafted for possible consideration by the voters next year. [More Detail](#)

Board of Selectmen October 15th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Capital Improvement Plan with four major projects totaling \$14.775 million through 2020 was accepted by the Selectmen. [More Detail](#)

2. Fees were increased for ZBA and Planning Board applications. ZBA applicants will be required to post signs prior to hearings. [More Detail](#)

3. The Selectmen are moving towards approval of the conservation acquisition of the back portion of the former Rand Lumber parcel for \$1.25 million with the scheduling of a site walk. [More Detail](#)

4. Selectmen approved application by the town for a grant aimed at cleaning up septic problems in the Parsons Creek watershed. [More Detail](#)

5. Wallis Rd. will be closed for a week, permitting a \$10,000 reduction in the cost overrun on the culvert replacement. [More Detail](#)

6. The Selectmen will pursue a contract with Waste Management for waste disposal. Selectman Musselman recused himself from the vote as his firm was involved in the evaluation of bids. [More Detail](#)

7. A short list of four pre-qualified firms for Town Hall construction was approved. The process of hiring a Clerk of the Works to monitor construction will proceed. The Town Hall Committee would be responsible only for details like color selection and flooring. [More Detail](#)

Conservation Purchase Public Hearing Nov. 10th:

Public hearing will be at 6:30 pm as the first part of the BOS meeting for the back portion of the former Rand Lumber property.

[Click Here](#) for background and these documents (click on any of them)

[Draft Purchase and Sale](#) [Appraisal Letter](#) [Real estate comps](#)

[Selectmen A to P process](#) [Lot Diagram](#)

[CIP Table of Conservation Purchases](#)

Town Hall Committee Public Hearing October 28th:

Final SMP Report: [Click Here](#)

[Click Here](#) for the Facebook page

Town Video Recording: [Click Here](#) (slides can be seen on the RCL video)

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

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. Architect makes detailed presentation of design drawings to audience.

2. Audience asks why the percentage of the cost represented by renovation of existing Town Hall has not been broken out. This leads to a discussion of the quality of construction and the cost of the Public Safety Building project.

3. Audience asks probing questions about expansion of the geothermal system, new siding, and the role of the Clerk of the Works.

4. Committee resolves responses from the architect to a list of 18 points and questions and makes decisions on each.

School Board October 15th:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#) (these are draft)

1. Discussion around software "Copsynch 911" that will directly connect teacher's computers to nearest 5 police patrol cars. Cost will be partly subsidized by a Homeland Security grant.

Live Free or Die Alliance

2. Report on outgoing Rye seniors from 2014. Included grades, groups participated in, science NHCAP scores, SAT scores and destination colleges.
3. Discussion around Wedgewood Farm land for sale behind Rye Junior High. There are 1.5 acres available to the town for the offered price of \$300,000. A private family offered to donate \$100,000 towards this purchase. If this land is purchased, and adjacent homeowner is willing to donate another 1.5 acres. Many people thought this is a fantastic opportunity at a bargain price to enhance the school's area and future curriculum growth. Others expressed concern about the schools footing the bill. More details will be researched and presented at an upcoming school board meeting.
4. Two parents expressed concern about the continued loss of a 6th social studies teacher which puts the additional classes on the 7th and 8th grade social studies teachers, making them less available for team meetings.
5. Results for the fall STAR testing are being evaluated by the teachers and will be available to parents at the end of the month. The teachers had in-service training on STAR Reports and Depth of Knowledge.
6. There is a new Rye PTA board and they plan on coordinating their meetings to start with presentations of pertinent issues that their kids are experiencing, for example, Common Core Standards and Depth of Knowledge.
7. School Board representatives held meetings with the school staff to discuss any concerns they have.
8. **Budget season is beginning; the first meeting is a budget overview on Nov. 6th at 6PM.**
9. A new paraprofessional may need to be hired to support a new student.

SAU 50 September 24th meeting:

No SAU meeting minutes posted (over 1 month ago)

RCL Video [Click Here](#)

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

1. STAR program and pilot in Rye
2. Paying teachers for blood pressure checks
3. Audit of food service programs
4. Power School program
5. SAU input into PHS principal search
6. Assistant Superintendent's job description
7. Funding issues with Special Education
8. CopSync 911 program for enhanced school security

Planning Board meeting: October 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 with Time stamps: [Click Here](#)

1. Plans for Town Hall presented. Planning Board has only advisory input.
2. Plans for major 5 lot subdivision at 561 South Rd. (Rye Farm):
 - a. Detailed questions and vigorous discussion and comments from abutters. Concerns include proximity to Rye Water District wells, drainage, road, septic pipe under wetlands for Lot 5, and septic systems.
 - b. Motion to waive the requirement for a Topographic and Soils plan with respect to the back portion of Lot 5, to be left undeveloped, is withdrawn after the developer states that plans for that lot will be disclosed at the next meeting.
 - c. Danna Truslow will be hired to do an additional hydrological study after the Board votes 4-3 to authorize this. Over 100 citizens petitioned for this.
 - d. The application was continued to the November meeting (November agenda indicates further continuance to December requested)

PB Site Walk for 561 South Rd (Rye Farm) Sept. 15th:RCL Notes of the Site Walk: [Click Here](#)Video of Site walk: [Click Here](#)

1. Rye Water District representatives showed the wellheads located 1000 feet away, but developer Don Cook asserts that, in the absence of a Retirement Community Development (RCD) (which might be applied for later) the distance would be twice that.
2. The subdivision would consist of five lots, one with an existing house. The fifth lot is a problem because the current plan would require its septic pipe to cross the wetlands.
3. Options for avoiding this are discussed. These include (a) a smaller high tech septic system; (b) locating the leach field on a different lot than the house; and (c) moving the house to the other side of the wetlands, which would mean the driveway would cross the wetlands.

Planning Board November 12th Agenda:Next Planning Board Meeting: [Click Here](#)

1. 561 Wallis Rd (Requested to move to Dec. 9th)
2. 901 Ocean Blvd. Unit #1 Changes
3. 60 Wentworth Rd. Add a stone retaining wall to the 14th fairway
4. 72 Lafayette Rd.

Zoning Board of Adjustment : October 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. 306 Pioneer Rd. Demolition and rebuild of house and garage approved.
2. 50 Jenness Ave. Lot unmerger request denied.
3. 19 Triton Dr. Deck approved.
4. 3 Cable Rd. Variance for existing shed approved.
5. 27 Hunterville Ave. Generator and shed relocation approved.
6. 45 Locke Rd. Rebuild of non-conforming building approved.
7. Lawn signs will now be required 7 days prior to hearings.

Zoning Board of Adjustment: November 5th:Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. 1142 Ocean Blvd. Expanding structure
2. 161 Clark Rd. Converting garage to accessory apartment

Conservation Commission Meeting October 16th:Learn more about the Conservation Commission: [Click Here](#)

Current Town Meeting Minutes: Not Available

RCL Meeting Notes (with elapsed video times) [Click Here](#)RCL Video of the meeting: [Click Here](#)

1. Approximately one hour session with developer Don Cook on land acquisition. Presumably this relates to the Rye Farm at 561 South Rd., currently before the Planning Board for approval of a five lot major subdivision.
2. Tracy Degnan of the Rockingham County Conservation District discusses two grants: one for Berry's Brook and the other for the Goss Farm.
3. Commission discusses renewal of cell tower lease on conservation land. Letter to Selectmen will seek to have those funds applied to conservation rather than the ambulance fund.
4. **BOS Public Hearing on November 10th for the former Rand Lumber Yard property to be purchased by the town.**

Beach Committee September 29th:Learn more about the Beach Commission: [Click Here](#)

NOTE: The BOS has suspended the Beach Commission and appointed a "Beach Committee" with a final report due December 16th.

Those residents with "Beach Concerns" should be attending these committee meetings.

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

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

RCL Video [Click Here](#)

1. Fees for permits (deemed desirable) and other ways of providing revenues, particularly to help resolve trash and enforcement issues;
2. Trash problems;
3. Increased resident parking spaces, perhaps on Perkins Rd. during July and August;
4. Lifeguards (stands should be moved further down at low tide, it was felt, and further improvements to flag placements are needed);
5. Stand-up paddle boards (people are surfing them without leashes, and some are going way out, which is dangerous);
6. Permits. Issue with the Surf Shack and insurance, planned event was addressed with the police. Minor issues with Summer Sessions. Free yoga, provided as a marketing tool, is skirting the permitting process;
7. Rolling closures to move commercial activity around on the beach;
8. Planning for beach usage that continues to grow, taxing town resources.

Town Budgets: October 23, 2014 BOS Workshop

The BOS spends a full day reviewing the budget with the Department Heads. These are very informative discussions for any one interested in what the departments discuss with the BOS.

The RCL has cataloged all of the discussions so that you can find where in the video to skip to.

BOS Budget Workshop all day Video: [Click Here](#)

RCL Table to showing budget and video time stamps: [Click Here](#)

1. Maturing of Public Safety Building debt and initial debt from 2003 conservation warrant article are reducing 2015 principal repayments by \$670,000. Thus, despite increases in other areas, preliminary 2015 General Fund budget is down to \$8.0 million from \$8.4 million this year.
2. Although town debt is now at an historic low, Selectman Musselman acknowledges that the 2014 conservation bond, the Town Hall and Recreation Community Center would drive town debt levels to an historic high (11:35:25 a.m.).
3. The \$3 million 2014 conservation bond may all be drawn down and depleted in 2015 as several property acquisitions are on the horizon (1:35:50 p.m., 3:52:00 p.m.).
4. Recycling disposal budget was tabled due to uncertainty about which towns will remain in the Solid Waste Disposal District, which has retained Selectman Musselman's firm to assist in negotiations (10:29:27 a.m.).
5. Warrant article will be proposed to divert some Beach Permit revenues to Parsons Creek cleanup project (10:37:52 a.m.).

Demolition Review Committee last mtg: May 9th

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

May Meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

November 13th Central Rd. Old school house meeting 9am RPL

[Click Here](#) for more information

Heritage Commission Meeting October 2nd:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Investigating developing a picture of what a renovated Town Hall will look like based on old photos.
2. Graveyard Project continues, one resident has inquired about the Bracket Rd. Massacre Site (Quiz - do you know what happened and where it is?)

Rye Energy Committee Meeting October 7th:

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

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Presentation on Wast Zero's Trash Metering program. Pay As You Through (PYAT) is now going to be referred to as SMART (Saving Money And Reducing Trash).
2. November 19th will be the NH Button Up Workshop

Historic District Commission May 6th

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

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Reviewed plans for renovation to the Oceanic Hotel on Star Island. Particularly, two new skylights will be added to the dining room to brighten the interior and the current skylight will be modified. Safety precautions on the roof were agreed upon and were approved by those members present.

Mosquito Commission Meeting September 23rd:

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

Recreation Commission Meeting September 2nd:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: There was no August meeting

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

September 2nd Agenda: [Click Here](#)

Rye Recreation does not post Draft Meeting notes for review

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:
 - \$.57 million is Priority 1 (to secure life and property)
 - \$7.464 million is Priority 2 (to maintain the present standard of living)
 - \$8.465 million is Priority 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 (in addition to -
 - \$3 million bond approved by voters in 2014)
 - Fresh Water Treatment Plant (2018): \$5.500 million

Climate Change Workshops:

These have been completed and there was a presentation to the BOS, but no definitive actions have yet been to be committed to. Residents need to continue to insist the town updates and the Master Plan and acts accordingly.

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

August 14th meeting with FEMA: Video [Click Here](#)

New FEMA maps: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [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:

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 from the October 27th discussion were: [Click Here](#)

- Rand Lumber Conversation land (Is the price unreasonably high and why would the town want to assume potential environmental risks)
- Town Hall - Public Hearing was to be the next night
- 561 South Rd (Rye Farm) and the last Planning Board meeting
- ZBA regulations, what drives them: the Master Plan or individuals interpretations.

Topics for the December 1st discussion may include the above and other topics residents raise for discussion.

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: 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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