

Rye Civic News

from the Rye Civic League

October 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:
October 29th 6:30 pm
RPL

(meetings are 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

Sept. 30th: Town Hall
Committee 6:30pm

Sept. 30th: Planning
Board TRC 6:30 pm

Oct. 1st: Zoning Board of
Adjustment 7:00 pm

Oct. 2nd: Heritage
Commission 6:30 pm

Oct 6th: Recreation
Commission Meeting 6:00
pm

Oct. 7th: Energy
Committee 6:30 pm RPL

Oct. 7th: Sewer
Commission 8:00 am

Oct. 7th: Town Hall
Committee 6:30 pm

Oct. 9th: Walk to School
Day

Oct. 14th: Trustees of the
Trust Funds 6:00 pm

General Announcements:

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

Rye Open Positions and Alternates [Click Here](#)

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

Fire & Rescue Open House October 5th: 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm

NH Healthcare Forum Oct. 7th: 6:00 pm RPL [Click Here](#)

Walk To School Day: October 9th

Rye/New Castle Candidates Night October 21st: RCL will host
candidates night for State Representative, State Senate and Executive Council.
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm Rye Elementary School Candidate links [Click Here](#)

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

Board of Selectmen Meeting September 22nd:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Summary: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: not available yet.

1. The Selectmen adopted the new Town flag, with a design process led
by Michael Mittelman under the auspices of the Rye Historical Society.

[More Detail](#)

2. Results of Climate Change Workshops were presented. Maps
modeling sea level rise of 1.7 to 6.3 feet, with and without 100 year storm
surge, will be constructed. [More Detail](#)

3. Results of bacterial contamination studies in the Parsons Creek
watershed are presented. Selectman Musselman argues that a "smoking
gun" has been found and that many properties may be unsuitable for
septic systems, necessitating community leach fields or a sewer system to
serve the Watershed. [More Detail](#)

4. ZBA and Planning Board fees may be increased to pay for notices in
the Herald and lawn signs for residents seeking variances. [More Detail](#)

5. Based on bids received, the Wallis Road Box Culvert project will
exceed the \$150,000 voted by the Town by \$20,000 unless the installation
cost can be reduced. [More Detail](#)

6. Selectmen admit to right-to-know law violation in connection with Town
Hall Committee Working Group meeting during which structural repair
options for the existing Town Hall, costing up to \$144,000, were
discussed. [More Detail](#)

Board of Selectmen Meeting September 8th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Summary: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. State Senator Stiles presented Departing Fire Chief Skip Sullivan
with a framed copy of a State Senate Resolution recognizing his 46 years
of service. [More Detail](#)

2. New police officer Amanda Gauthier sworn in. [More Detail](#)

Oct. 14th: Planning Board
7:00 pm

Oct. 15th Recycling
Education Committee 6:00
pm

Oct. 15th: Board of
Selectmen 6:30 pm

Oct. 15th: School Board

Oct. 6th: Conservation
Commission 7:00 pm

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

Oct. 30th: Town Hall
Committee Public
Discussion 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](#).

Jeness Beach Budget:
[Click Here](#)

School Budget:

3. Wallis Road box culvert will be replaced in October, necessitating road closure. The installation has been put out to bid. [More Detail](#)

4. Several letters seeking lower speed limits are addressed. The Selectmen note a state statute which requires a study prior to changes. The Police Chief wants \$20,000 for a speed monitoring device. [More Detail](#)

5. Consolidation discussions between the Portsmouth and Rye Fire Departments are starting. [More Detail](#)

Town Hall Committee Working group Sept. 18th:

Final SMP Report: [Click Here](#)
[Click Here](#) for the Facebook page

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

1. Local builder, Town resident and 2011 Town Hall Space Needs Committee member Joe Tucker presented his case for demolishing the existing Town Hall and building a single replacement building, arguing that the cost would be lower. [More Detail](#)

2. Town resident Del Record questions whether or not the Committee was in fact charged with preserving the Town Hall. [More Detail](#)

3. Town Hall Committee member Mae Bradshaw questions whether the townspeople would ever permit demolition. [More Detail](#)

4. Joe Tucker points out the past lack of accountability for cost overruns. [More Detail](#)

5. Architect Jason LaCombe of SMP disputes that the structural problems were identified at the eleventh hour. [More detail](#)

6. The Subcommittee decides to invite Mr. Tucker to the full Committee meeting on September 30, but proceed with the project as planned in the meantime. [More Detail](#)

Town Hall Committee Working group Sept. 11th:

Final SMP Report: [Click Here](#)
[Click Here](#) for the Facebook page

RCL Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

1. The architect states that, due to the extent of change to the Town Hall, the most stringent building code applies, and the building must be brought up to code. The building is deficient in part because the building appears to have been extended upward at some point by placing new walls underneath it, such that the heavy timber posts no longer extend to the foundation. [More Detail](#)

2. The structural engineers describe two solutions. The first, exposed angle braces on the interior, would cost approximately \$67,000. The second, hidden steel posts in the walls that would extend to the foundation, would cost approximately \$144,000. [More Detail](#)

3. Four members of the Town Hall Committee select the second option. [More Detail](#)

4. An unbudgeted emergency generator may also be required to prevent catastrophic freezing in the event of a power outage. [More Detail](#)

School Board September 17th:

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

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

1. World language program will offer French and Spanish to grades K-3 this year.

2. Additional staff, including for English as a Second Language and Lunch Monitor/Library Assistant at RJH was discussed.

3. Budget for next year will be modeled at 0 and 2 percent increases to help determine what in expenses should be included.

4. Budget overview session scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on November 6. All-day budget session is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on November 10.

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:

Live Free or Die Alliance

Planning Board meeting: September 9th:

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

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

Video of August 14th FEMA Meeting: [Click Here](#)

RCL Summary provides summary and time stamps to the different segments: [Click Here](#)

Town meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

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

1. 243 Central Road (3:38)

Major Site development passed with 9 conditions (page 4/5 of meeting minutes). There are many variances granted that allows for this project to move forward Click Here for video time stamps of the discussion

2. 561 South Rd (Rye Farm) (53:00)

Major Subdivision and Conditional Use Permit. Sub-dividing into 5 lots and building a 590ft new town road. Planning Board accepted Jurisdiction to proceed, which means the project is moving forward, Site walk, further development....

a) Board would not let the public discuss if the builder will at some point request Lot 5 to support a Retirement Community Development (RCD)

b) Much concern about drainage, water run-off, wetlands, the feasibility of using "logging roads" for construction equipment

3. Rules of Procedure (2:20:40). In 2012 the Planning Board replaced the 2009 rules of procedures with older 1998 Rules of Procedure without documented discussion or public notice. No documentation is provided to show all members and the public were aware of the changes as the negated 2009 Rules were what were available for the public until July of 2014.

- July 28th RCL Memo [Click Here](#) Supporting Document [Click Here](#)

- [Click Here](#) for additional background

Rules and Regulations: September 24th:

1. Aquifer Protection section (306) of the zoning ordinance discussed with Danna Truslow who was invited to comment due to her expertise.

Extended discussion of septic system issues. Suggested ordinance includes reduced limit for impervious coverage which may be exceeded with a special exception or storm water management plan.

2. Strengthened impervious coverage definition is proposed, with options of using the definition in State law or a more detailed set of criteria from a town in Maine. Ordinance use of "impermeable" in places will be amended to "impervious."

3. Rules of Procedure have been reviewed by Chairman Keriann Roman and will be brought up at the October and November Planning Board meetings for adoption. Town Attorney has expressed an, as yet undisclosed, opinion that the Rules were validly amended in 2012.

Planning Board September 14th Agenda:

Next Planning Board Meeting: [Click Here](#) to check as Agenda is not posted online yet. Notice outside Town Hall indicates that the site plan for Town Hall and the 561 South Rd. (Rye Farm) subdivision are on the agenda.

Zoning Board of Adjustment : September 3rd:

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. 56 Cable Rd., generator within setback approved.

2. 3 Love Ln., construction business prohibited.

3. 33 Gray Ct., variances for setback and impervious coverage approved.
4. 50 Jenness Ave., lot unmerger. Case continued.
5. 9 Young Ln., oversize accessory apartment. Case continued.
6. 495 Central Rd., building in wetlands setback approved.
7. 52 Cable Rd., garage in side setback approved.
8. 306 Pioneer Rd., demolish and replace building in wetlands buffer. Case continued.

Zoning Board of Adjustment: October 1st:

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. 306 Pioneer Rd. Variance for building in the wetlands buffer
2. 50 Jenness Ave: Restoration of involuntary merged lots
3. 9 Young Lane. Special exception for an accessory apartment
4. 19 Triton Drive. Variances for a deck
5. 3 Cable Rd. Variance for a shed
6. 27 Huntervale Ave. Variance for a shed and to add a generator
7. 45 Locke Rd. Re-build a non-confirming building

Conservation Commission Meeting September 18th:

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

Current Town Meeting Minutes: Not Available

RCL Video of the meeting: [Click Here](#) (See the elapsed times in the video, to skip forward to these specific discussions)

1. Discussion of 561 South Rd. (Rye Farm). Representatives of the Rye Water District questioned whether the hydrogeological report was conclusive. There is a question of where the water drawn into the wells is coming from. (0:39 elapsed)
2. Wetlands, Bunce, Causeway Rd. (11:49 elapsed)
3. Wetlands, Meyer, 106 Locke Rd. Went through plan to address violation. Site walk scheduled for September 24. (26:10 elapsed).
4. Debra Twombly made presentation on Monarch Butterfly Watch program (38:20 elapsed).

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.

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.

Demolition Review Committee last mtg: May 9th

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

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

1. 206 Washington Rd. The barn was to be converted to home use for an

expanding family, but would have been inefficient and cost prohibitive. The owners were most cooperative to allow photographing and salvage of any historic details which would not be incorporated into their own reconstruction. The permit was unanimously granted.

Heritage Commission Meeting September 4th:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: Not posted

1. Discussion around methods to educate the Rye voters about the need to renovate the Town Hall with emphasis on restoring the Town Hall Auditorium Meeting Room.
2. Pursuing ideas for a poster and possibly a Facebook page to educate voters
3. Working on a mailer to create seed money to help secure a grant for funds to be used to replace historic windows in Town Hall
4. Discussion of structural requirements for Town Hall
5. Priscilla Jenness was thanked for her presentation of the Tallman Award to Dr. Michael Mittelman at the John Smith Memorial Dedication

Rye Energy Committee Meeting September 2nd:

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. 2013 Energy Report has been moved to spread sheets that have been updated through August 2014.
2. Poster project continues for Library, RES and Town Hall
3. Recycling Education continues to work on the Pay as You Throw. Composting program continues with positive results
4. Stay Warm and Save \$ is being planned for late November and early December

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 September 11th:

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 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.

Town Budgets July 30th Meeting

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.

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. The School District reported a cumulative surplus of approximately \$411,000 at the end of the latest fiscal year in June. Most of this is being retained to avoid the appearance of a spike in the 2015-2016 tax rate. This year's tax rate should be flat, nevertheless. [More Detail](#)

2. High School tuition was well under the budget due to fewer students than anticipated, saving approximately \$194,000. [More Detail](#)

3. However attendance is dropping, raising per student costs, a particular concern at the Junior High School. [More Detail](#)

4. Town expenditures appear to be on budget, with 58 percent of the budget remaining after the first half. Revenues are up \$116,000 over the prior year. [More Detail](#)

5. Budget Committee Chairman Paul Goldman discusses his recent assumption of the Chairmanship of the Town Hall Committee. He praises the architect, but complains that they have had to endure wide-ranging discussion in the process of closing in on a plan. [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:

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 September 23rd discussion were: [Click Here](#)

- Master Plan - Questions if we are following it or not.
- Structural Study for Town Hall and 2011 Warrant Article
- Town Hall committee discussion distractions
- Parson's Creek pollution problem and actions [Click Here](#) for BOS notes
- Major Developments in Rye (561 South Rd, others???)

Topics for the October 29th discussion may include the above and other topics residents raise for discussion.

November 4th Election Support:

RCL Candidates Night: October 21st RES 6:30pm to 8:30pm

State Representative:

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

Dan Hughes: nothing found

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

Ray Tweedie: [Click Here](#) for facebook page

State Senator (links from LFDA)

Nancy Stiles [Website](#)

Chris Muns [Website](#) (LFDA link not active)

Executive Council

Robin McLane [Click Here](#) for Website

Chris Sununu [Click Here](#) for website

RCL will add more links for the November Civic News

LFDA Election Support: [Click Here](#)

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

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](#).

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