

Rye Civic News

from the Rye Civic League

September 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: September 24th 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. 2nd: Recreation
Commission Meeting 6:00
pm

Sept. 2nd: Energy
Committee 6:30 pm RPL

Sept. 3rd: Zoning Board of
Adjustment 7:00 pm.

Sept. 4th: Heritage
Commission 6:30 pm.

Sept. 4th: Rye Rec. Fall
sign ups.

Sept. 8th: Board of
Selectmen 6:30 pm.

Sept 9th: STATE
PRIMARIES Please
Participate. RES

Sept 9th: Sewer
Commission 8:00 am

General Announcements:

Rye Recreation Fall Program Sign Up: Sept 4th 6pm to 7pm Rye Rec.

[Click Here](#)

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

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

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

Master Plan & PB Sept. 9th notice: [Click Here](#)

State Primary September 9th: [Click](#) for more information

Pulpit Rock Tours: September 13th: 10:00 am to 12:00 noon

Flood Maps and Climate Change: [Click Here](#) for more information

Rye Site Walks: 561 South Rd. (Rye Farm) RCL has documented a site

walk, if you have never participated this can be very informative. [Click Here](#)

Lighthouse Kids: Saving White Island Lighthouse on the Isles of

Shoals: October 2nd 7:00 pm RPL Sue Reynolds presenting

Rye/New Castle Candidates Night October 21st: RCL will host
candidates night for State Representative, State Senate and Executive
Council.

Board of Selectmen Meeting August 11th:

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Summary: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting minutes: not available yet. August 25th meeting was
canceled.

1. Discretionary easement to permit eight acres of land owned by James
Philbrick to remain in current use is discussed following site walk. Town
Administrator is directed to confer with Town Counsel and the Town
Assessor. The matter will be discussed at a subsequent Board of
Selectmen meeting. [More Detail](#)

2. Recreation Commission decision to move operations to modular building
at the Recreation Area pending completion of the Town Hall leads to
extensive discussion about the poor timing of the request and concern that
citizens will now argue that the proposed Town Hall can be reduced in size.
[More Detail](#)

3. Paving of Parsonage Apartments parking lot will proceed this year.
Paving of town-owned Congregational Church parking lot is deferred. [More
Detail](#)

4. Request for more frequent bacteria testing of Parsons Creek leads to
discussion about testing protocol and the lack of problem resolution after
many years. [More Detail](#)

Town Hall Committee meeting August 26th:

Final SMP Report: [Click Here](#)

Sept 9th: Planning Board
7:00 pm

Sept. 11th: CIP 6:30 pm

Sept 16th: Recycling
Education Committee 6:00
pm.

Sept. 17th: School Board
Meeting 5:30 pm

Sept. 18th: Conservation
Commission 7:00 pm.

Sept. 22nd: Board of
Selectmen 6:30 pm

Sept 23rd: Mosquito
Control Commission 6:30
pm

Sept. 25th: CIP 6:30 pm

Sept. 30th: 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](#))

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](#)

[Click Here](#) for the Facebook page

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

1. The Recreation Department's move to a modular unit at the Rec Facility was discussed, and the Committee felt that this had no bearing on the square feet of the new Town Hall complex.
2. SMP Architect, Jason LaCombe, informed the Committee that to bring the existing Town Hall to current code the existing 8 side wall beams would have to be reinforced with steel supports. This will significantly increase the price of the project. Previous engineering reports apparently ignored the side walls.
3. SMP will be obtaining construction bids and expects to have information for bidders by Thanksgiving.

Town Hall Committee meeting August 5th:

Final SMP Report: [Click Here](#)

[Click Here](#) for the Facebook page

Video Recording: At Safety Building - no recording

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

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

1. Do only 4 people care about the details of this million dollar investment? There were only four residents at this Public Discussion who were not on the committee or work for the town.
2. SMP presented a new rectangular building at the July 29th meeting, and discussion was held about office space and size and use of conference rooms.
3. The next steps are to refine the interior design and to obtain cost estimates for the 12,539 square foot complex, including the existing Town Hall, the underground connector, and the new Building.
4. Marketing initiatives will be taken by the committee to attempt to gain support within the Town.

School Board August 12th:

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

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

1. Ms. Kelli Killen has been hired as the Assistant Superintendent
2. \$75K was allocated from the Special Education Trust Fund to offset expected costs for this year.
3. Spanish and French will now be available to all RES students
4. STAR Assessment programs are moving forward at RES and RJH
5. School Board is investigating adding video for School Board meetings.
6. November 10th will be the Full Day budget working meeting

Planning Board: Negated Rules & the Future of Rye

This section is to encourage residents to attend the September 9th Planning Board meeting at 7:00 pm.

Master Plan: This is the most influential document that impacts Rye. If there is one place where you should and can be involved, it is in the continuous maintenance of our Master Plan. How we move forward is currently under discussion.

[Click Here](#) to understand why the RCL is very concerned.

Negated Rules of Procedure: Starting in 2012 the Planning Board has been discussing minor changes to the Rules of Procedure. The RCL has pointed out that the Rules of Procedure the Planning Board is working to approve contain major changes that have not been disclosed to the Public.

- The 2009 Rules of Procedure have been negated with out public discussion
- The Rules of Procedure about to be approved are based on portions of the 1998 Rules of Procedure with some modifications.
- July 28th RCL Memo [Click Here](#) Supporting Document [Click Here](#)

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:

[Live Free or Die Alliance](#)

- [Click Here](#) for additional background

Opinion Piece: Concern over recent Rye developments [Click Here](#)

Planning Board meeting: August 12th:

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

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

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

Town meeting minutes: **Not Published Yet** [Click Here](#) to check town site

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

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

1. 511 Wallis Rd - (former Rand property) major subdivision

- Accept jurisdiction and approve plan for screened in porches (28:00)

2. 60 Elwyn Rd - two lot subdivision on one driveway (32:30)

3. 243 Central Rd - Demo bldg. and build new structure to house business offices on 2nd floor and two businesses such as a bank and real estate office on first floor. (1:57:00)

4. 705 Washington Rd - Webster at Rye - 51,000 square foot addition (2:31:00) - Approval granted with eleven (11) conditions (4:37:00)

5. New Business (04:40:25)

6. Rules of Procedure process. Member Tweedie states that due process has been followed (4:44:00)

7. RCL memo about the negated 2009 Rules of Procedure without public discussion is tabled due to the late hour. (4:56:00).

Technical Review Meeting July 29th:

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

1. 243 Central Road

2. 795 Washington Rd. Webster at Rye

Rules and Regulations: August 28th:

RCL Meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

1. Discussion of the use of "prohibited" in Zoning Ordinances, most of the discussion focused on Septic systems in the wetlands buffer.

2. Discussion of workshop for the Aquifer Protection Zone

3. Discussion of how to define "impervious surfaces" and how to calculate coverage areas

4. Bill Epperson discussed his ideas for implementing a process for updating the Master Plan [Click Here](#) to see older memo

Planning Board September 9th Agenda:

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

1. 243 Central Rd Major Site Development

2. 561 South Rd - Yellow Rye Farm Major Site Development

3. Subcommittees - TRC, Long Range Planning and Rules & Regulations

Zoning Board of Adjustment : August 6th:

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. 3 Love Lane: Discussion of Board discussion on Notice of Decision

2. 5 Grove Rd.: Special Exception accessory apartment. Approved 4-1

3. 23 Locke Rd.: Lot subdivision with frontage of only 109 ft. Approved 5-0

4. 18 Neptune Drive: Multiple variances All approved 5-0

5. 39 Pine St.: Adding an accessory apartment All Approved 5-0

6. 33 Gray Court: Set back variances - continued

7. 402 Wallis Rd - withdrawn
8. 28 Cable Rd.: Administrative appeal granted All Approved 5-0
9. 56 Cable Rd. Generator installation continued

Zoning Board of Adjustment : September 3rd:

Meeting Agenda: [Click Here](#)

1. 3 Love Lane Board deliberation on variance
2. 56 Cable Rd Variances for generator installation
3. 33 Gray Court Variances for new garage and a deck
4. 50 Jenness Ave. Restoration of involuntary merged lots
5. 9 Young Lane. Special exception for an accessory apartment
6. 495 Central Rd. Wetlands and vernal pool variance request
7. 108 Straw's Point Administrative Appeal
8. 52 Cable Rd. variance on setback for garage
9. 306 Pioneer Rd. Variance for building in wetlands buffer

Conservation Commission Meeting August 21st:

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

Current Town Meeting Minutes: Not Available

RCL Meeting notes with Time stamps to RCL video: [Click Here](#)

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

1. 243 Central Road Development (00:35)

This is the Skin care and gas station by the post office. Site walk is being planned.

2. 561 South Rd (Rye Farm): See site walk below and then watch the discussion of the wetlands and other concerns (42:10)

3. Discussion of discretionary easements (109:20)

Conservation Commission Rye Farm Site Walk July 30th:

The Conservation Commission conducted a site walk of the Rye Farm (561 South Rd) which may be divided into five (5) lots for development.

Video of the Site Walk: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes of the Site Walk: [Click Here](#)

1. One parcel of 35 acres is proposed to be subdivided into five parcels, one containing the existing farm house, three containing single family homes and the fifth, requiring a wetlands crossing, containing either a ten unit Retirement Community Development ("RCD") or another single family home.

[More Detail](#)

2. Abutters expressed concerns about the location adjacent to conservation land and within the Aquifer Protection and Wellhead Protection Districts.

[More Detail](#)

3. Abutters expressed concerns about drainage and flooding and referred to FEMA flood zone maps. [More Detail](#)

- 4 The proposed wetlands crossing was viewed. [More Detail](#)

5. The applicant emphasizes that an RCD is only a possibility, but acknowledges that Attorney Tim Phoenix was retained due to his experience in obtaining approval of the RCD at the former Rand Lumber property. [More Detail](#)

Climate Change Workshop #4: August 27th

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.

Beach Committee July 1st:

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.

RCL meeting notes: [Click Here](#)

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Parking was discussed, but issue was tabled pending completion of the parking study.
2. Committee will be observing the ice cream trucks
3. Discussion with Chief Walsh about filing fees for permits.
4. Discussion of movable chairs for Rye Lifeguards.
5. Stand Up Paddle Boards were discussed along with safety requirements.
6. Trash and recycling was discussed.
7. Resident requests more public communication from the Beach Committee

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 Last Meeting August 7th:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Graveyards Maintenance Project continues to make progress
2. Commission is providing the research and technical support for the Town Hall window replacements
3. John Smith Monument Dedication August 14th [Click Here](#) for Portsmouth Herald Article

Rye Energy Committee Meeting August 5th:

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

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

Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

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

1. Energy Report intern is working to develop step by step instructions for the Portfolio Manager
2. Poster Program - what should be next was discussed
3. Public Safety Building audit is on hold until there is cooler weather
4. Energy Chapter for the Master Plan is making progress
1. Ron Freeze from Rye Congregational Church attended the meeting to

learn what the Church could do to improve energy efficiency.

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 July 21st

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 July 7th:

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

Town Meeting Minutes: There was no August meeting

July 7th meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

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

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

Capital Improvement Plan Committee August 14, 21, & 28th:

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

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

The CIP met three times in August to push the 2014 CIP update forward.

This work needs to be completed prior to town and school budgets.

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.

RCL Budget Meeting Notes: [Click Here](#)

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 June 26th discussion were: [Click Here](#)

- Planning Board Rules of Procedure - what happened to the 2009 changes
- Town Hall structure and why only 4 people came to the public discussion
- Other Major Site Developments
- 561 South Rd. Development
- 243 Central Rd Site Development and process

Topics for the September 24th discussion may include the above and other topics residents raise for discussion.

November 4th Election Support:

RCL Candidates Night: October 21st RJH 6 pm to 9 pm

State Representative:

David Borden:

Dan Hughes:

Tom Sherman:

Ray Tweedie:

State Senator (links from LFDA)

Steve Kendra [Website](#) or Nancy Stiles [Website](#) Depending on primary results

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

Executive Council

Robin McClane

Chris Sununu

RCL will add more links for the October 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 will soon be 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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