Rye Civic News September 2016

"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)

General Announcements:
1. South Rd. 21 Lot Subdivision
   Click Here for diagram.  Technical Review Video Click Here
   Conservation Commission Site Walk,  RCL video:  Click Here
   Aug. 1st Conservation Site Walk Draft Minutes:  Click Here  Recorded Video Click Here
2. Parson's Creek Pollution
   31 of 58 Summer readings above State criteria Click Here
3. Climate Change Master Plan Changes
   at Planning Board.  September 13th 7pm  May 12th Public Comments  Draft Chapters  Click Here
4. New Jenness Beach Bathhouse Project:
   State project page:  Click Here  See below
5. State Primary September 13th
   8 am to 7 pm  Absentee Ballot Form  Sample Ballots
6. State Candidates Night October
   18th 6:30 pm  RJH
7. Book about Rye's "Battle of the Century" Click Here  Herald Story
8. Rye Lions Car Show
   September 18th  Parson's Field  Click Here
9. Water Conservation
   - Please water outside before 8:00 am and after 7:00 pm
10. Rye Farmers Market:
    Click Here  Wednesdays from 2:30 to 5:30 pm Congregational Church.
    Click Here
12. Mosquito Posters
    completed  Bug-Them.  Wanted Not
13. Coastal Risk and Hazard Commission:
    Click Here for public comment  Click Here
    for draft report
14. Cancer Cluster February 2nd Report:
    Click Here  Other links  Click Here
    Community Group facebook page:  Click Here  April Rye Water Testing results  Click Here
15. Rye Recreation Senior Program (NEW):
    2016-2017 Active, Alive and over 55  Click Here
16. Rye Recreation Fall Programs Registration:
    Click here
17. Assessment Data:
    Online views of town lots  Click Here
18. GIS Mapping
    Software Presentation Video:  Click Here
19. Discussion of issues facing Rye.
    Click Here

Board of Selectmen Meeting August 22nd:
Video Recording:  Click Here  see RCL time stamps
Draft Town Meeting minutes:  Not available
RCL Meeting Notes:
1. The abatement for the Sea Glass Lane properties was granted.  Refunds will be pro-rated based on the portion of a year each owner owned each unit.  More Detail
2. No decision was made on the paving of Shoals View, which is estimated to cost $125,000.  The town will look into what it would take to confirm that this is indeed a Town road.  A warrant article may be submitted, or the traffic pattern changed to reduce dust on the road.  More Detail
3. The Selectmen rejected a plan for the Public Works facility as being much too expensive.  More Detail
4. No decision was reached on retaining the existing ambulance as a spare once the new ambulance is received, pending further discussions with North Hampton on fire department consolidation.  More Detail
5. No alternate will be appointed to the Planning Board to replace Selectman Jenness, who will be recusing herself from considering a 21 lot subdivision on South Rd. involving her property.  More Detail
6. The Parsonage Committee will be informed that it should follow its existing charge, and not look into other possibilities for low income senior housing in the event that the Parsonage Apartments are used for something else.  More Detail

Board of Selectmen Meeting August 8th:
Video Recording:  Click Here
Town Meeting minutes:  Click Here
RCL Meeting notes:  Click Here
1. Two members of last year's Town Hall Committee pushed to have a committee of builders, engineers and architects present "valid" data to voters to avoid the circulation of "spurious" information "kicked around by non-professionals." More Details
2. Abatements for Sea Glass Ln. were tabled so details for each unit can be provided. Some properties were over assessed because a July inspection, rather than the required April 1, 2015 assessment date, was used. More Details
3. Senator Ayotte may be campaigning at the Transfer Center in August. More Details
4. Certain Public Works projects have been held, rather than placed in the CIP Plan, pending approval of Town Hall. More Details
5. An attempt may be made to present the Town Hall as a "shovel ready" project for federal funding if Clinton is elected and her five-year infrastructure plan passes Congress. More Details

Parson's Creek Pollution Committee August 1st:
Organized Additional Information: Click Here
Information from the Planning Department: Click Here
Video Recording: Click Here
Septic System Presentation: Click Here
1. 20 letters sent to systems viewed as critical, ZERO responses from residents to date.
2. Summer readings continue to show many very polluted spots Click Here 31 of 58 readings. Note: This report was received Sept. 1st and not discussed at this meeting.
   Key points:
   a) Up to 200x state bacteria limit for sampling sites (one test with 4 others more than 10X) at PC07 PC08 this summer, in the marsh on the south side of Parsons Road near Brackett
   b) Some but not all samples at 10-100x state limits primarily in wet weather at sites where marsh crosses Long John Road ACPS005-U35 and where the same drainage crosses Brackett ACPS005-U15
   c) Beach seeps 24 hour sampling locations. Intermittent spikes up to 2x state limit at Parsons/Stinky Creek outlet.(PC Out) One significant mid day spike 20x state limit at RB02 located about mid way between the Parsons Creek outlet and the public access to the north.
3. Discussions of a new septic ordinance, could be based on Meredith Ordinance Click Here
4. Discussions about getting what the real cost of a sewer system would be.
5. No update on where the mystery pipe is connected to near Parson's Creek outlet

Parsonage Apartments Committee August Meetings:
Committee Charge from the BOS: Click Here
August 1st: Video Click Here Draft Meeting Minutes: Click Here
August 15th: Video Click Here Draft Meeting Minutes: Not available
August 30th: Video Click Here Draft Meeting Minutes: Not available
1. The Parsonage Committee continues to contemplate the Old Parsonage building, its dire condition, its present operation and operator, its future status, and the Town's desire and need for affordable Senior Housing.
2. The Committee members agree that this is an important entity and function in the Rye Town Center, as described in detail in the Rye Master Plan.
3. However, because "context" is important, the future status, operation, and management of the Parsonage should depend on the outcome of a study of the context of that building and operation; it would be prudent to work with Plan New Hampshire organization to conduct a "Charrette" that would consider the needs and functional interrelationships of all of the Town's entities in the Rye Town Center, including the Rye Town Hall, the Parsonage, the Rye Public Library and its related land and Parking Lot, the Rye Historical Society, and the Rye Public Safety Building.

Rye Districts Information:
Click Here for information on Rye Districts

Jenness Beach Bathhouse State Public Hearing
Click Here for the video
Click Here for State Information page and links to more information
1. State is concerned about losing funding and not having the work completed before next Summer
2. Appears the State may change the current plans to leave the angled parking and sidewalk areas.

**Rye Water District August 3rd Meeting:**
RCL Time Stamps and meeting notes: [Click Here]
RCL Meeting Video: [Click Here]
Draft Water District Meeting Minutes: [Click Here]
1. The District's engineer provided an update on various projects and the ongoing rate study which may alter the division of costs between the tax rate (charged to all property owners in the District) and the water rate (charged only to those connected to the mains).
2. Well levels are low, but not dangerously so, due to the drought.
3. The potential new development on South Rd. (22 homes) (near the Water District wells) will be monitored. Issues identified so far are runoff, water flows, and blasting of ledge.
4. Properties near the Coakley Landfill may need to connect to public water to prevent migration of the toxic plume caused by water withdrawals from wells. Rye Water may need to provide the water for this. The situation will be monitored.

**School Board August 23rd Meeting:**
Learn more about the Rye Schools: [Click Here]
Draft School Board Meeting Minutes: [Click Here]
No Video this month from the RCL
Superintendent's Bulletin: June [Click Here]
[Click Here] to see RCL Budget overview
September 12th Agenda: [Click Here]
1. RJH’s Dr. Robin Ellwood received the Presidential Award for Excellence [Click Here] for Herald story
2. Budgeted but unfilled positions and over budgeted PHS students were the largest contributors to last year's budget surplus.
3. RJH continues to have problems with the boiler, September 12th meeting will include a public hearing so funds can be used from the facilities expendable trust.
4. Rye Little League is looking at installing an infield at Lang’s Field. RLL to report if the Lacrosse or Soccer usage will be impacted or not.
5. Water testing showed elevated levels of copper at RES.
6. Budget meeting will be November 10th at 3pm at RPL

**Planning Board meeting: August 9th:**
Learn more about the Planning Board: [Click Here]
New FEMA maps have been posted: [Click Here]
Video Recording: [Click Here]
Draft Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here]
1. case # 10-2016 - Eversource - Public Hearing on trimming and cutting trees on selected Rye roads. After much discussion, all in favor of approving with the following conditions:
   A. Obtain property owners' approval for all cutting
   B. Inform property owner they have right of refusal
   C. Conform to RSA 231.172 and Adm. Form PUC 307.10
2. case # 11-2016 - 22 Odiome Drive; amendment to major site development - condo conversion 1980 (demo existing house and build a new one) after much discussion, all in favor of accepting jurisdiction of case 7-1 approval of granting of waivers with five conditions (see PB minutes on town website for details)
3. Public Hearing - proposed zoning amendment (rentals). The planning board would like to restrict short term rentals of one to two days to a minimum of three months (see PB minutes for details)

**LRP Public Meeting (Master Plan) August 17th**
Three Chapters are being updated for Climate Change impacts, Land Use, Transportation and Natural Resources [Click Here] for the current Master Plan 2013.
Video Recording: [Click Here]
Draft Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here]
1. Draft Chapters for Climate Change: [Click Here]
2. May and June Public Comments [Click Here]
3. Chapter changes will be presented to the Planning Board on September 13th

**Rules and Regulations Committee and Zoning Amendments:**
August 13th Draft Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here]
August 25th Video Recording: [Click Here]  No draft town meeting minutes

1. The Committee is working on a number of zoning amendments (see agenda August 25th [Click Here]).
2. At the August 25th meeting, the Committee discussed the first two items on the agenda: Apartments and Certificate of Occupancy (tabled in 2015-2016) and Corner Lots.
3. They created a Wetlands Subcommittee to help with Storm water and stronger support for wetlands buffers.

**Wetlands Subcommittee August 31st meeting:**
Draft Meeting Minutes that includes the charge from the Rules & Regulations/Planning Board: [Click Here]
Video Recording: [Click Here]

1. Disclosure by Member Scott Gove that he has worked with Joe Falzone in the past including for Mr. Falzone’s Star Fish development on Brackett.
2. Comparison of section by section spreadsheet of current Wetlands Ordinance, tabled December 2015 proposal, and current Greenland wetlands ordinance prepared by Member Losik was discussed. More towns will be added.
3. Presentation of currently available wetlands mapping via the town GIS site and the 1994 Hydric Soils map and 2010 Aerial Photo referenced in the current ordinance. Informing voters as to location of wetlands a key and difficult step as the definitive delineation of wetlands and buffers relies on a certified soil scientist’s on the ground analysis
4. Discussion of information distributed on phragmites and their control
5. Members will each review the Charge’s key areas of focus for next meeting, research, and present key bullet points.

**Technical Review Committee August 30th:**
Video Recording: [Click Here]

1. Members of the TRC reviewed an application for a Major Subdivision and Conditional Use Permit by Harbor Street Limited Partnership of Stratham NH for properties located at 421 South Road and determined that it was incomplete. The applicant, developer Joe Falzone, was asked to provide an hydrological study, an application for a lot line adjustment, as well as a CUP application.
2. See Conservation Commission site walks and discussions

**Planning Board September 13 Agenda:**
Meeting Agenda: [Click Here]

1. Public Meeting Coastal Hazards & Climate Adaption Chapter of the Master Plan [Click Here]
2. Airfield Drive Conceptual Consultation 39 Unit development by the Housing Partnership
3. Zoning Amendment Discussion 2017-01 Revisions to the Accessory Dwelling Units
4. Proposed Zoning Amendment 2017-02 Expiration of variances and special exceptions

**Zoning Board of Adjustment: August 3rd:**
Recorded Video [Click Here]
RCL Meeting notes: [Click Here]
Draft Town meeting minutes: [Click Here]

1. 51 Brackett Rd., Map 22, Lot 68-1. Construct new residence on non-conforming lot with existing barn. Approved 3-2, with dissenters wanting to condition approval of the house on removal of the existing barn. Allow septic system bed bottom within 4 feet of ledge where 6 feet is required. Approved 5-0.
2. 20 Huntervale Ave., Map 8.1, Lot 95. Allow construction of garage within 3 feet of lot line. Approved 5-0.
3. 250 Locke Rd, Map 12, Lot 8. Appeal of revocation of building permit following Building Inspector’s determination that substantial construction had not begun within the required time. Denied 4-1.

**Zoning Board of Adjustment: September 7th Agenda:**
[Click Here] for agenda

1. 10 Jenness Ave: Variance for a higher fence
2. 21 Wallis Rd.: Extension to variances
3. 60 Wentworth Rd. Variance for fence "90' by 350"'
4. 0 Big Rock Rd.: Request for Administrative Appeal
5. 245 Pioneer Rd.: Request for Administrative Appeal
6. 1647 Ocean Blvd.: Tear down and build new

**Conservation Commission (CC) August 18th Meeting:**
Learn more about the Conservation Commission: [Click Here]
Conservation Land Maps: [Click Here]
Wetlands Map [Click Here]
Town Forest map: [Click Here]
August 18th Recorded Video: [Click Here]
Draft Meeting minutes: Not available
August 23rd. 1647 and 1112 Ocean Blvd: Site Walk Minutes: [Click Here]
RCL Meeting Notes: [Click Here] RCL has added links to maps
1. 1112 Ocean Boulevard, the owner wishes to replace and enlarge an existing patio with Enviro pavers (various wetlands permits are needed).
2. 1647 Ocean Boulevard, the owner wishes to tear down an existing structure and rebuild a new structure (property is in the FEMA Flood Zone).
3. Joe Falzone, developer, intends to donate to the Town 36 acres of backland (wetlands with uplands) from the 100 acres (4 combined parcels) he is planning to develop to build 22 homes.
4. 7 Elizabeth Lane, notice of violation for cutting and filling in the wetlands buffer.
5. 245 Pioneer Road, CC members sending a letter to the Chair of ZBA asking that the applicant come before the CC prior to ZBA hearing.
6. Discussion about the ZBA approval for an applicant on Huntervale Avenue abutting Town property despite opposition from CC members who were in attendance at the meeting.
7. Discussion regarding the newly formed "Wetlands subcommittee" - Mike Garvan is planning to serve to represent the CC.

**Conservation Commission Special Meeting South Rd August 30th:**
Recorded Video of Site Walk Meeting discussion: [Click Here]
RCL Video of the August 1st Site Walk: [Click Here]
August 1st South Rd. Site Walk Meeting Minutes: [Click Here]
1. Conservation Commission agrees to accept donation of back acreage of South Rd. 21 lot subdivision land.
2. Conservation Commission will express concerns to the Planning Board regarding ledge and other issues associated with the South Rd. 21 lot subdivision

**Recreation Commission No August Meeting:**
Learn more about Rye Recreation: [Click Here]
[Click Here] to see the Rye Recreation Master Plan
Recorded Video: Not available
Draft Town Meeting Minutes: Not Available
Fall program Registrations: [Click Here]
Active, Alive and over 55 Programs: [Click Here]

**Recreation Space Needs Committee August 1st**
Updated Charge: [Click Here] to review
Recorded Video: [Click Here]
Draft Meeting minutes: Not posted yet

**Heritage Commission Meeting August 4th**
Learn more about the Heritage Commission: [Click Here]
Recorded Video: [Click Here]
Draft Town Meeting minutes: [Click Here]
1. Rye will participate in the October 15th Seacoast Heritage Meeting in North Hampton.
2. Reported on the Plan NH discussion from the August 1st Parsonage meeting and how they could support the "Charette" process.
3. Discussions continue to get the Farragut Archaeological dig to commence

**Mosquito Commission Meeting August 16th**
Learn more about the Mosquito Commission: [Click Here]
Draft Town Meeting Minutes: Not available yet
Video of meeting: [Click Here]
1. Posters are available [wanted not bug them]
2. The high commissioner states that he’s "never seen a year like it" because of the extreme drought, mosquitoes have found new breeding sites, hence the increase in biting activity.
3. Mosquitoes nest in stagnant water, a puddle filled plastic bag, an old tire...anything! So be pro-active if you find an old tarp, or anywhere with standing water, tip it over.
4. Our vendor has been really good at responding to resident complaints, if you have bug/pest problem, more than usual, contact Swampinc.com Justin is the go-to guy.
5. No Zika, or EEE or WNV in Rye or NH.

Rye Energy Committee Meeting: August 2nd:
Learn More about the Energy Committee: Click Here
Draft Town Meeting Minutes: Not Available

Rye Recycling Education Committee No July Meeting
Town Meeting minutes: Not available
Video Recording: Not available

Historic District Commission April 6th Meeting
Learn more about the Historic District: Click Here
Recorded Video: Click Here
Draft Town Meeting Minutes: Click Here
1. Reviewed the Star Island project for egress stair replacement. Changes were approved.
2. Reviewed 1984 Historic District Plan to see if changes or updates are required.

Capital Improvement Plan August 3rd and 18th Meetings
View Current CIP: Click Here
Recorded Video: None available
No meeting minutes available

Library Board of Trustees August 16th
Trustee Home Page: Click Here
Draft Library Meeting minutes: Click Here
August 16th Draft Library Facilities Meeting minutes: Click Here
August 16th Video Recording: Click Here
August 25th Video Recording: Click Here
1. Parsonage renters smoking on the benches - exterior property is non-smoking
2. HVAC is being removed from CIP, since there was a warrant article
3. Harry Potter youth events continue to be very popular

Sewer Commission Meeting June 14th July mtg canceled
Draft Town Meeting Minutes: Click Here
No Video Recording as meetings are at the Rye Beach Post Office building.
1. Sewer connection for 17 Foss Circle was reviewed and approved.

Beach Committee: July 20th:
Facebook Page Click Here
Last Video Recording: Click Here
2015 Beach Report was presented to the BOS. Click Here for the report
Beach Parking Report: Click Here
Selectmen disbanded the Beach Commission (voter supported) and now this group has not met since December, leaving the Selectmen in control of the beach.
1. Beach Committee met with Chiefs Walsh, Lambert and Jake MacGlashing.

Current Topics & When and Where can you help Rye?:
When a topic is being discussed at Town meetings, let us know if you would like to be notified, so you could attend so that the town can benefit from your inputs, guidance or support. The RCL will need to develop an automated system so please e-mail the RCL with topic(s) on which you may wish to be notified.
In order promote dialog, the Civic News has an "Opinion" section where views can be expressed, Please send us any other suggestions to help you stay educated, informed and engaged.

Past topics:
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:
None

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 discussed:
1. Jenness Beach Bathhouse dominated the discussion as that meeting was the next night
2. Parson's Creek pollution and actions
3. If the town will be able to implement Climate Change and Stormwater protection
4. South Road major development
5. RJH new Principal

Other Town Activity
How Good is our Library?
2015 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: 2015 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.
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.