

Rye March 11, 2014 Ballot Articles Table

| Reference | Short Description | Yes Vote Means | No Vote Means | More Information |
|--------------|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| Article 3 | Zoning Ordinance changes | | | |
| Amendment 1 | Requires recertification every two years, by submission of an affidavit, affirming that properties subject to conditional use permits in the Aquifer Protection District remain compliant. | Helps the town monitor that that the owner remains in compliance. | You do not feel that the burden should be on the property owner to complete paper work every two years. | Click Here |
| Amendment 2 | State had changed the name of the regulatory body, modify Zoning Ordinance accordingly. | Change the name to be in sync with the State | Allow the wording to continue to be incorrect | Click Here |
| Amendment 3 | Clarifies wording so that the 100 ft wetlands buffer includes all vernal pools, not just those larger than one acre. A vernal pool is a pool of water or a wetland that dries up at times. | You support having the 100 ft. wetlands buffer apply to all vernal pools. | Ambiguous wording would remain, allowing applicants to argue that the 100 ft. wetland set back applies only to vernal pools over one acre in size. | Click Here |
| Amendment 4 | Ballot is incorrect. The required width is currently 10 ft. The intent was to reduce it to 9 ft. but the figures were reversed. | The required width would remain at 10 ft. as the ballot is incorrect. | The required width would remain at 10 ft. | Click Here |
| Amendment 5 | For the map of record for the Berry's Brook watershed, move to a newer and more detailed map | Allow the map of record be the newer 2003 map. | Stay with the older 1998 map. | Click Here |
| Amendment 6 | Changes the expiration period for variances and special exceptions to two years to match the new NH law. | Support being consistent with the new State law. | You do not like a longer period before variances and special exceptions expire. | Click Here |
| Amendment 7 | Adds a new section so that the expiration period for unused special use permits and conditional use permits is two years. | Support being consistent with the new State law and other provisions of the zoning ordinance. | You believe that unused special use permits and conditional use permits should not have an expiration period. | Click Here |
| Amendment 8 | NH and Federal law now restricts the ability of towns to require new permit applications for certain cell tower expansions. This amendment would bring the Zoning Ordinance into conformity. New towers would still require permits pursuant to the ordinance. | You are in favor of bringing the Zoning Ordinance into conformity with State and Federal law. | You are in favor of the more stringent restrictions in the Zoning Ordinance, but recognize that the Town could be sued if it seeks to apply the ordinance because of the conflict with State and Federal law. | Click Here |
| Amendment 9 | Combines the Wellhead and Aquifer Protection districts into a single district. | Increases the area of protection. | You are not in favor of expanding the area of protection. | Click Here |
| Amendment 10 | Changes which sections of the Zoning Ordinance, as it relates to Retirement Community Developments ("RCDs") that may be waived by the Planning Board vs. those that may be waived by the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The owner of the former Rand Lumber parcel (511 Wallis Rd) has a current application for an RCD. | You are in agreement with allowing the Planning Board, rather than the ZBA, to waive additional restrictions and in removing the Board's ability to waive the density limitation. | You prefer that the Zoning Board of Adjustment grant variances to these sections, rather than having the Planning Board grant waivers. | Click Here |
| Article 4 | Make the Floodplain Development and Building Ordinance consistent with Federal law to help make Rye eligible for the National Flood Insurance Program | Support the consistent wording with Federal law so Rye can be eligible for Federal support. | You do not care about Federal support or do not support the Federal guidelines for building within the Floodplain. | Click Here |

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| Article 5 | While the Commercial District is largely along Route 1, the Business District consists of pockets of land in Rye adjacent to residences. Lot coverage in the General Residence District, including impervious areas, is currently limited to 30%. Conversely in the Business District lot coverage by buildings is limited to 40%, with no limitation on impervious areas. This amendment brings impervious areas within the 40% limit in the Business District (excludes wetlands from the calculation). | You want consistent lot coverage requirements in areas where businesses are located adjacent to residences. | You believe that development in the Business District should not be restricted as to impervious areas, such as asphalt parking lots, that can be constructed on the lot. | Click Here |
| Article 6 | Creates a single (in our Zoning Ordinance) and consistent (with NH Law) definition for what is included in "Impervious" calculation . This definition tightens the criteria for a surface to be considered pervious by requiring that it be designed effectively to infiltrate or absorb water. | You support a more consistent and conservative approach when water runoff is a concern. | You are willing to accept the inconsistencies in the Zoning Ordinance, including alternating use of the terms "impermeable" and "impervious" when only the latter is defined. You are willin to accept a definition that is different from the one in the NH RSAs. | Click Here |
| Article 7 | Allow the Conversation Commission to obtain, as needed, up to \$3 million for land acquisitions and easements, subject to approval of each transaction by the Board of Selectmen. | You support the Conservation having readily-available funds to strengthen its negotiating position and its ability to act quickly when opportunities present themselves. | You favor having the voters approve each individual land or easement acquisition at the election each March, perhaps because you are concerned that the Conservation Commission or the Board of Selectmen may waive appraisal requirements or otherwise act contrary to the best interests of the Town. | Click Here |
| Article 8 | Provides \$250,000 to complete the design of the Town Hall renovation and expansion and obtain firm bids so that the the voters could approve the construction budget in 2015 | You want to see the Town Hall work continue to the next step. | No, you do not want to see the Town Hall improvements and expansion move forward yet. | Click Here |
| Article 9 | Lease/Purchase a new \$175,000 Front End Loader, with a \$45,000 cost in the first year. Leasing is required because the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve lacks sufficient funds for all acquisitions being requested this year. | Approve allocating \$45,000 this year. The Town will need to add the lease payment to the operating budget in subsequent years unless it decides to return the equipment. | You do not approve of purchasing this equipment or would like the Town to wait until the Capital Reserve has sufficient funds to avoid the extra costs associated with leasing. | Click Here |
| Article 10 | Purchase a new 6-wheel dump truck \$150,000 using money in the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve funds | You are in favor of the Town purchasing a replacement truck, which is used primarily for plowing Town roads. | The purchase would be deferred, creating a risk that one of the trucks would be unavailable during a snowstorm, or would require substantial repair costs. | Click Here |

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| Article 11 | Rebuild the Wallis Rd Box Culvert for \$150,000. This is the older one closest to the Ocean under which little water now flows due to the redirection of Parsons Creek by the Town during the late 1990s. | You support this work being completed now. | You do not want to see this project funded this year, perhaps because you want to wait until the lawsuit that seeks to return Parsons Creek to its former location be resolved first. | Click Here |
| Article 12 | Approve the 3 year agreement with the Town's union employees (Public Works), appropriating \$9,700 to cover 2014 increases. | Approve the new agreement that includes a few concessions, largely applicable only to future hires. | The employees' pay would be frozen at current levels and negotiations would be reopened. | Click Here |
| Article 13 | Empower the BOS to call a special meeting if Article 12 is defeated | Give the BOS the authority to call another town meeting to address costs associated with the increases. | If Article 12 fails, you would want the Selectman to collect the 50 signatures required before calling for another town vote. | Click Here |
| Article 14 | Approve the 3 year agreement with the Town's Police Union employees (does not include the Firefighters Union, with which no agreement was reached this year), appropriating \$7,746 to cover 2014 increases | Approve the new agreement that includes a few concessions, largely applicable only to future hires. | The employees' pay would be frozen at current levels and negotiations would be reopened. | Click Here |
| Article 15 | Empower the BOS to call a special meeting if Article 14 is defeated | Give the BOS the authority to call another town meeting to address costs associated with the increases. | If Article 14 fails, you would want the Selectman to collect the 50 signatures required before calling another town vote. | Click Here |
| Article 16 | Purchase a new pickup truck for \$65,000 using Highway Equipment Capital Reserve funds. | You are in favor of the Town purchasing a replacement truck, which is used for multiple purposes, including plowing minor Town roads. | The purchase would be deferred, creating a risk that the truck would become unavailable or that substantial repair costs would be required. | Click Here |
| Article 17 | Increase the police force by one patrolman. | You believe the town would benefit from an additional patrolmen, who would permit a second officer to be added to the graveyard shift that currently has only one officer on duty, and also provide the flexibility to have 1-2 officers on the beach during the summer. | You do not want to see the police force increased in size, perhaps because you believe that part-time officers could handle the beach duty more cost effectively. | Click Here |
| Article 18 | Appropriate \$15,000 for the purchase of a used Ladder Truck, if the other \$285,000 can be obtained from Federal funding. | The town would be able to replace its ladder truck should Federal funds be available. | You do not believe that Rye needs a ladder truck, or are opposed to having the Town take federal money for a truck that may see little use. | Click Here |
| Article 19 | Add \$100,000 to the Highway Capital Reserve fund. | Continue to annually add to this reserve fund so that taxes do not spike when a major piece of equipment needs replacement. | Equipment replacement would be deferred and/or taxes would spike when a major piece of equipment needs replacement. | Click Here |
| Article 20 | Add \$50,000 to the Town Employees Accumulated Leave Fund | You approve of adding to this fund, which is underfunded relative to the Town's liability | The fund may be depleted at some point, depending on employee retirements and resignations. At that point the town might have to budget for these, or would need to figure out how to address the budget shortfall if the departure was unexpected. | Click Here |

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| Article 21 | Add \$5,000 to the Library Maintenance Fund | Assure the Library has a reserve to address its ongoing maintenance and emergency requirements. | The library might need to cut other budget line items to stay within budget if an emergency arose. | Click Here |
| Article 22 | Town Budget is up 4.6% to \$9,079,898, excluding any amounts appropriated in other warrant articles. | The Town could spend up to the amount of the increased budget, plus any warrant articles approved. | The town could spend no more than the default budget of \$8,712,201, plus any warrant articles approved. Alternatively, the Selectmen could call a Special Town Meeting to address the cost items in the budget. | Click Here |
| Article 23 | The amendment to the Beach Ordinance would require that any entity that charges a fee related to activities on Town beaches, or for equipment rented for use on Town beaches, whether on the sand or in the water, would need to obtain a permit from the Board of Selectmen. | You favor putting the authority to limit the size, location and impact of activities conducted for a fee in the hands of the Board of Selectmen rather than the Beach Commission or voters who could determine the specific criteria. | You oppose permitting or oppose this ordinance as written. You may be concerned that the findings of the study, if done, were not presented at a public hearing as required by 2013 Warrant Article 15, that the ordinance gives too much discretion to the Selectmen, or that it seeks to regulate activity in the Gulf of Maine, despite a legal opinion from Town Counsel that the Town may not ban such activities. | Click Here |
| Article 24 | Non-binding resolution (so not enforced by the Police), that declares Town Beaches to be "Smoke-Free Zones" | You support Rye promoting no smoking on beaches. | You do not want Rye to advocate for no smoking on the beach. | Click Here |
| Article 25 | If Article 23 does not pass, allows the town to consider banning commercial activities on the beach that are not ocean-borne. | This would send a message that you are in favor of the town considering such a ban. | This would send a message that you are not in favor of such a ban. | Click Here |
| Article 26 | If Article 23 does not pass and Article 25 does not pass, this article gives the Selectmen to option of moving forward to propose an ordinance to ban commercial activity on the beach during prime summer beach hours. | This would send a message that you are in favor of the town considering such a ban. | This would send a message that you are not in favor of such a ban. | Click Here |
| Article 27 | Allows the Selectmen to sell surplus assets. | You are in favor of giving the Selectmen this authority. | You prefer that the Town vote on each disposition of surplus assets. | Click Here |

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