

The Town Hall Committee

At the March 2015 Deliberative Session and town vote, after approximately five years of planning, Rye voters did not approve a Warrant Article which would have funded renovating the current town hall and building a separate, but connected town hall office building to be located on the same site. The Board of Selectmen wishes to establish another Town Hall Committee to assist them in determining the desires and consensus of the community, to review the work of prior town hall committees, and finding a path forward that meets the needs and desires of the voters while providing an affordable, work efficient, accessible town hall office and meeting space.

Charge to the Committee

- To determine the desires and consensus of the community, by whatever means possible to include open forum(s), surveys, public hearings, work sessions, etc.
- To review the work of prior town hall committees to include reports, meeting minutes, plans, etc. in order to refine and articulate the town's office and public meeting space needs.
- To insure that the public is provided opportunities for input and is informed throughout the process through the use of various tools and methods to include; public meetings, presentations, and electronic media.
- To consider the feasibility and desirability of: 1) alternative renovations to the existing facility; 2) demolition of the existing facility and construction of a new facility at the existing site; 3) construction of a new facility on an alternate parcel of land with future renovation or reuse of the existing town hall by others; or 4) and any other feasible alternatives.
- To assess the feasibility and desirability of continuing to conduct town-wide voting at the elementary school while classes are in session and continuing to utilize the junior high school cafeteria and gymnasium for high attendance Town, board and committee meetings.
- To report back to the Board of Selectmen on the process and the committee's recommendation for appropriate next steps for the town to take, no later than December 19, 2015.

The Rye Town Hall Committee is established on this date of April 13, 2015 by vote of the Board of Selectmen.

The committee shall consist of not more than fifteen members, all residents of Rye. Members shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen for an initial term ending on March 31, 2016. Staff members may be appointed as non-voting members of the committee. It is the Selectmen's intent to sunset this committee after completion of its charge, unless the Selectmen vote to continue the committee with a new and different charge.

Town of Rye Board of Selectmen

Priscilla V. Jenness, Chairman

Joseph G. Mills Jr., Vice-Chairman

Craig N. Musselman, Selectman