

## **Town of Rye Warrant Article 18**

*To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) to conduct preliminary planning, design and engineering for a community center, of which forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) will come from withdrawal of funds from the Recreation Revolving Fund. The balance of the forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) is to come from general taxation. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (Majority vote required)*

*This article is recommended by the Selectmen (2-0)*

*This article is recommended by the Budget Committee. (7-1)*

Rye Recreation has two temporary structures located at the recreation area, the recreation house and modular. These facilities fail to meet the programming, administrative, storage, and recreation area support (restrooms) space needs. Due to lack of space at Town Hall, the Recreation Staff is now located in the temporary modular trailer at the Recreation Area.

With limited resources Rye Recreation provides a wide range of programs and services to more than 1700 participants annually ranging in age from 4 to +95. Programs are held at 12 different facilities, with supplies and equipment stored in 19 different locations.

The discussion on the need for proper space for recreation programming has been ongoing since at least 1999. Over that time period the Recreation Commission has completed a Recreation Master Plan and conducted two town-wide recreation needs surveys. In 2015 Christopher Williams Architects was hired to conduct a recreation facilities space needs assessment. The Board of Selectmen appointed members to a Rye Recreation Facilities Space Needs Assessment Committee. The Committee met throughout 2016 and the findings were presented to the Board of Selectmen in November of 2016. One of the architect's recommendations was the construction of a new modestly sized community center at the Recreation area that would have adequate space for programming for all ages to replace the two outdated buildings that don't meet current building codes and have inadequate storage space. Also the lack of programming for middle school aged children due to lack of proper program space was identified as a concern in the community.

This article proposes funding for the preliminary planning and design to update the recreation area land use master plan and the feasibility of constructing a community center at the recreation area. The Rye Recreation Facilities Needs Assessment Committee's Report and the Facility and Space Needs Assessment of Rye Recreation Facilities Report by Christopher P. Williams, Architects are both available for public review on the Town of Rye's website.