Rye Civic News April 2018
from the Rye Civic League (www.ryecivicleague.org)
"Informing citizens, enhancing direct democracy and supporting the will of the voters"

Please share with your Rye friends & neighbors NEW Citizens' Handbook (click here)
RCL Facebook Page

Supporting the Rye Civic League
Over 60% of you opened the Election results, but just a few of you are members and less attend our monthly meetings. Show your support by spreading the word about the Civic News to friends and neighbors. You can also help defray our operating costs through membership. Money is nice, but participation is even better and there are lots of ways to help. Additional information: Click Here

March Highlights:
1. Town Hall plans are at standstill in the approved budget, Select Board member Roman was hesitant to begin the painting process because of the "depletion of the building maintenance fund".
2. With approximately 2% of the Rye Water District (RWD) voters present, all spending was approved and the article to allow all RWD voters to weigh in on moving to a ballot at the polls (just like we do for the Town and School) failed again.
3. Brackett Rd. Cell tower to be discussed April 16th 7pm RPL in a joint ZBA and Planning Board meeting Agenda Click Here Letter from abutter Click Here For the Cell Phone tower application Click Here Letter to State Rep. Click Here
4. Open Town positions (as of March 14th): Click Here
5. NH Fish & Game restricts Berry's Brook to catch and release because of pollution. Click Here
6. Wentworth by the Sea Country Club is still fighting the court order to restore the Sanders Point beach access sign. Portsmouth Herald Story Click Here
7. Town Finance Director/Assistant Town Administrator will be retiring as of August 2018 Click Here
8. Rye Energy Survey in process - Be Heard and fill out the survey
9. Rye Public Library #1 on the Top 10 NH List. Click Here
10. Rye Elementary Empty Bowl Fundraiser April 4th 5pm to 7pm RES Click Here
11. Rye Recreation Winter Programs Registration NEW Click here
12. NH Fish & Game restricts Berry's Brook to catch and release because of pollution.

General Announcements:
1. If you know of 2018 Kindergarten or 1st Grade children, please help the schools plan by registering children now.
2. Rye Elementary Empty Bowl Fundraiser April 4th 5pm to 7pm RES Click Here
3. Rye Recreation Summer Programs Click Here
4. Art in Bloom is April 13th and 14th
5. Rye Recreation Senior Program: Art in Bloom is April 13th and 14th
6. Rye Recreations Senior Program: 2017-2018 Active, Alive Click Here
7. Seacoast Lacrosse Registration: Click Here
8. Rye Little League Registration Open: Click Here
9. Rye Youth Softball Registration: Click Here
10. Assessment Data: Online views of town lots Click Here
11. GIS Mapping Software Presentation Video: Click Here

Select Board Meeting March 26th:
Video Recording: Click Here
Draft Town Meeting minutes: Not Available
RCL Meeting Notes: Click Here
1. There was extensive public comment on the defeat of Article 9 to tear down and rebuild Town Hall. Some urged the Select Board to start now supporting a tear down and new build, while others urged moving forward with painting and other Town Hall issues as the 45 percent vote is a long way from the required 60 percent. More Detail
2. Selectman Jenness will be BOS Chairman, new Selectman Roman will serve as the representative on the Heritage Commission and the CIP Committee. More Detail
3. Former Selectmen Mills spoke on a number of issues, demanding that the Town Hall ADA issues be addressed to accommodate him, while also arguing that the plan to tear
Board of Selectmen Meeting March 12th:

1. A resident challenged the accuracy of information on a card mailed to all households regarding the TD Bank purchase and the Esther Parsons Legacy. More Detail
2. Summer Sessions was challenged by the Police Chief for the lack of a traffic safety plan and by Selectman Musselman for expecting continued use of town resources for no charge. More Detail
3. The conservation acquisition of 56.29 acres off of South Rd. for $300,000 in connection with a lawsuit settlement was unanimously approved after the Selectmen waived all requirements of their customary process relating to conservation acquisitions. More Detail

School Board March 20th:

1. Margaret Honda was elected to School Board Chair, Deb Crapo welcomed as new board member
2. Water Tests results were found to be within recommended limits. See reports here: RJH & RES
3. Board approved $7K to replace water fountains at RJH due to concerns about copper remediation
4. New phone system upgrade was approved for up to $15K at RES as approximately 8 phones do not work posing a major safety concern.
5. Rye Junior High School Teacher Sheila Adams is a 2018 Clipper Foundation Award Winner. Sheila submitted a grant application to support a Seafaring Vessel Project and was awarded $2,300 from the Foundation. RES and RJH were granted conditional approval for the Infrastructure Grant for school safety upgrades.
6. Next meeting Dates:
   - April Meeting: Tuesday, April 17th 4:00pm to 6:15 pm
   - May Meeting: Wednesday, May 16th, at 5:00 pm
   - June Meeting Wednesday, June 13th at 5:00 pm
   - July Retreat Wednesday, July 25th at 8:30am at the Rye Public Library.

Rye Districts Information:

Click Here for information on Rye Districts

Rye Beach Village District Annual Meeting: April 10th 7pm RBVD

Rye Beach Village District (upstairs in the second Centeral Rd. Post office).
1. Electing a Moderator, District Clerk, Commissioner for one year, Commissioner for three years, Treasurer and Auditor.
2. Warrant for new street lights
3. RBVD Budget: Click Here

**Jenness Beach Village District Annual Meeting: March 17th**
Jenness Beach Bathhouse: State Information: Click Here
JBVD Budget: Click Here
Recorded Video: Click Here

**Rye Water District Annual Meeting March 31st:**
RCL video recording: Click Here (scanned by the RCL, not posted)

1. Ralph Hickson was reelected Commissioner and Andrea Morrisey Treasurer after a complaint about the lack of communication by the Water District (2:05 elapsed).
2. The budget and all warrant articles passed as presented, following inquiry by residents regarding potential water treatment plant, PFCs, the aquifer, location of a well near the Transfer Station, and billing in the case of water leaks (7:30 elapsed).
3. There was vigorous debate over the adoption of the Official Ballot as a precursor to adopting SB2 for the Water District (46:20 elapsed).
   a. Proponent Peter Crawford argued for adoption in the interest of transparency and enfranchisement of many more voters (46:20 elapsed).
   b. Opponent Jaci Grote argued against adoption, arguing that "to put something like a water pipe, a main replacement, on a warrant article in a town ballot is dangerous because people would not have voted for that, and then we'd have breaks in the line, costing money and be wasting water." (55:03 elapsed)
   c. The question was called after only these two people had spoken. Ms. Grote seconded that motion. The motion failed to pass and Steven Borne spoke about cutting off debate as being contrary to principles of democracy, and then spoke in favor of the Official Ballot.
   d. Following a secret yes/no balance, the warrant article failed to pass, 39-20 (90:32 elapsed).

**Rye Water District March 7th:**
2018 RWD Budget: Click Here
Draft Water District Meeting Minutes: Click Here
RCL recorded video: Click Here
Rye Water Testing Data: Click Here Note no analysis included
Rate Increase Letter: Click Here Report is not yet posted for the public.
Water in Rye and Grove Landfill presentations: Click Here

1. Airfield Drive development comments: RWD will move the hydrants for the development and no irrigation systems.
2. Harbor Rd project is planned to begin in April.
3. There were two Seacoast Drinking Water Commission meetings in February. USGS Water Science and Seacoast Watershed Alliance both presented. Click Here for Drinking Water information sheet from DES. RWD has not posted these reports, the State has some documents posted: Click Here
4. RWD is supporting the Rye School Water Project

**Clean Water Issues:**
1. DES informs BOS that Parson's Creek is an impaired body of water. See more information on Parson's Creek. Click Here
2. Summary of PFC carcinogens impacting Garland Well. Click Here
3. Water in Rye Presentation from the RCL Click Here
4. RCL video of the November 29th presentation: Click Here
5. RWD Presentation: Click Here
6. CMA Engineers Grove Rd. Landfill presentation: Click Here
7. RCL (supported by State Rep. Messimer) has an up to date summary of what we know about PFC's in our area: Click Here
5. Cancer Cluster Final Report September 2017 Click Here
6. August 23rd Governor's Task Force Coakley Landfill Subcommittee Presentation (full overview) click here Recorded Video: Click Here
7. NH Fish & Game restricts fishing in Berry's Brook. Click Here

**Additional Information:**
NHDHHS Confirms CDC-defined Pediatric Cancer Cluster Click Here
Community Facebook page for the Cancer Cluster: Click Here
Full USGS 2009 Study of Seacoast Ground Water Resources: Click Here
Draft Subcommittee Recommendations to Task Force: [Click Here]
Google Drive of documents related to subcommittee’s work: [Click Here]
Coakley-Greenland Cancer Fact Sheet: [Click Here]
NHDHHS confirms uptick in pediatric brain cancers in cluster: [Click Here]
Grove Rd. Landfill CMA Presentation: [Click Here]
PFC’s 101 from Rep. Messmer: [Click Here]
RWD presentation: [Click Here]

**Planning Board meeting: March 13th:** CANCELLED WEATHER
Learn more about the Planning Board: [Click Here]
New FEMA maps have been posted: [Click Here]

**LRP Public Meeting (Master Plan)** March 9th & 23rd (Cancelled)
What has happened since 2014: [Click Here]  Additional 2016 information [Click Here]
Master Plan has been updated with Chapter 3 only. [Click Here]
Recorded Video: [Click Here]
Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here] for February 23, 2018 minutes (first posted meeting minutes since 2016)

**Rules & Regulations Committee**
Proposed Zoning Amendments were all approved on March 13th.

**Wetlands & Surface Water Committee:**
Subcommittee is on hold waiting for additional information. [Click Here] for the details of the October meetings. [Click Here] for more information on Parson's Creek

**Planning Board April 16th Agenda: Joint ZBA meeting**
Agenda for meeting: [Click Here] 7:00pm RPL
1. Verizon Wireless leasing private property at 120 Brackett Rd.
   a) Determination of Completeness
   b) Public Hearing

**Zoning Board of Adjustment: February 7th:**
Recorded Video: Canceled due to snow

**Zoning Board of Adjustment Agenda: April 3rd and 4th:**
See Planning Board section for April 16th joint Planning Board Meeting
April 3rd Agenda [Click Here]
1. 0 Bracket Rd. Cutting trees in the wetland buffer
2. 0 Bracket Rd. consideration of reinstatement of decision - closed to the public

April 4th Agenda [Click Here]
1. 0 Richard Rd. Variances to build on a non-conforming
2. 41 Park Ridge Rd. Variances for building within the setbacks
3. 80 Baker Ave. Variances for expanding a non-conforming structure
4. 300 Pioneer Rd. Variances for garage and breezeway within the tidal wetlands
5. 655 Wallis Rd. Replace septic system, but proposed system requires variants
6. 166 Perkins Rd. Variances to expand a non-conforming structure
7. 961 Washington Rd. Variance to allow a multi-dwelling apartment to utilize current system until a new one is installed
8. 50-52 Lafayette Rd. Allow a larger electronic sign

April 16th Agenda 7pm RPL Joint Meeting [Click Here] for Agenda
1. 120 Brackett Rd. Request for variances
2. 120 Brackett Rd. Special exception for driveway crossing over wetlands

**Conservation Commission (CC) March 8th**
Learn more about the Conservation Commission: [Click Here]
Conservation Land Maps: [Click Here]
Wetlands Map [Click Here]
Town Forest map: [Click Here]
1. 0 Brackett Road (Tax Map 17 Lot 34-2) - New proposed plan (smaller footprint/outside wetland buffer) after ZBA denied prior application. Following 3/11 site walk, the commission was generally in favor of the project despite some reservations. The commission will issue its final recommendation after seeing the planting plan.

2. 0 Richard Road (Tax Map 5.2 Lot 156) - Proposed plan for new home, driveway and septic on empty lot requiring wetland buffer variance. Commission completed site walk on 3/15 and recommended limited lawn coverage and the inclusion of native ground cover in project.

3. Proposal for new Verizon cell tower located at 120 Brackett Road (Tax Map 22 Lot 95) - 30' x 40' stockade accessed from new 12' gravel driveway. Requires wetland variance. Further discussion set for joint meeting of the ZBA and Planning Board on Monday, April 16th.

4. Relocation, small addition and new septic proposed for seasonal cottage located at 140 Harbor Road (Tax Map 9.2 Lot 17). Application pending DES approval. During 3/15 site walk committee members expressed concerns about the impact of the proposed addition and patio.

5. Proposed replacement septic system within tidal buffer at 3 Willow Lane (Tax Map 17.4 Lot 29). During 3/15 site walk, members expressed that 2 large maple trees should be protected and native plantings should be added to plan.

Conservation Commission (CC) Site Walks March 20th and 21st
Draft Meeting Minutes March 20th: Click Here
Draft Meeting Minutes March 21st: Click Here

Recreation Commission Meeting March 12th:
Learn more about Rye Recreation: Click Here
Click Here to see the Rye Recreation Master Plan
Summer program Registrations: NEW Click Here
Spring program Registrations: Click Here
Active, Alive and over 55 Programs: Click Here
Recorded Video: Held at the Recreation building (no video)
Draft Town Meeting Minutes: Click Here
1. Gregg Mikolaities and Brett Mulvey terms are expiring March 31st and they are willing to serve another three year term if re-appointed.
2. Georgina Saravia introduced herself and is willing to serve on the Recreation Commission.
3. Lee Arthur met with Mike Thiel to get more information on his builder after statements made at the deliberative meeting.
4. Discussions about the space needed for 50 Rye After School students at RES and if any modifications are required with the current School Board agreement.
5. It was noted that at some times the School Board sent a representative to the Recreation Meeting. Improved communication with the Schools.
6. Lee Arthur met with RJH Principal Marie Soucy to discuss potential Middle School programming.
7. Flag Football deadline is May 25th, current registration is very light.

Heritage Commission Meeting March 1st
Learn more about the Heritage Commission: Click Here
Recorded Video: Click Here
Meeting Notes: Click Here
1. Two meetings will be held March 5th and 8th 6:30pm RPL due to the volume of misinformation
2. Town Attorney disagrees with residents interpretation of the deed
3. Selectman Musselman refutes multiple claims and assertions made by residents

Library Board of Trustees March 8th:
Trustee Home Page: Click Here
Library 2017 Usage Statistics; Click Here #1 NH Library Click Here
Recorded Video: Click Here
Draft Library Meeting minutes: Click Here
1. Chris Nee from the Rye Trustees of the Trust Funds (TOTF) to clarify that the Library can only utilize the interest. The principal of the Alma Hill Fund can be used with a three year notice.
2. Residents continue to make unsolicited donations to RPL.
3. Several firms have responded to the RFP for architectural design.
4. RPL was named "Best Library in NH"
5. Some libraries have cats, but RPL is moving to remove the squirrels.

**Mosquito Commission Meeting 27th:**
Learn more about the Mosquito Commission: [Click Here]
Draft Town Meeting Minutes: Not posted
Video of meeting: [Click Here]
1. Posters are available

**Rye Energy Committee Meeting: February 6th:**
Learn More about the Energy Committee: [Click Here]
Draft Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here]
1. Michael Joyce has joined the Energy Committee.
2. The first municipal building energy report will be posted at the library.
3. The group will look at the 2012 Building Reports to see what has been implemented.

**Rye Recycling Education Committee January 16th**
Video Recording: Not available
Draft town meeting minutes: [Click Here]
Openings for three new members.
1. Discussion with the PTA about Terracycle.

**Sewer Commission Meeting March 13th**
Draft Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here]
1. Nor'easters did not damage any of the system.
2. Church Rd. station is becoming overcrowded and storage space is needed.

**Historic District Commission February 27th Meeting**
Learn more about the Historic District: [Click Here]
Recorded Video: [Click Here]
Draft Town Meeting Minutes: Not Available

**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:
1. Camden Green Lawn Program: [Click Here]

There is helpful information included in the sections for commissions and committees that are not actively meeting. Opinions, Public Discussion and additional content are also included below.

**Beach Committee August 28th and September 28th:**
Facebook Page [Click Here]
Draft Meeting Minutes Aug. 28th: [Click Here]
Recorded Video: Not available
No updates available prior to publishing.

**Capital Improvement Plan:**
Completed and accepted CIP Plan [Click Here]
Current: [Click Here] for a summary of the projects.
Current: [Click Here] for a list of all of the projects

**Trustees of the Trust Funds August 22nd**
Draft Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here]
Recorded Video: [Click Here]
1. Discussions of the current economic state and risks.
2. Reviewed and discussed the current allocations and cash positions.
3. Decided to reduce J&J position based on possible negative impact of recent lawsuit
4. Next meeting will review ultra-short bond funds to support strategic liquidity

Parson’s Creek Pollution Committee November 15th 2016 Final Report:
Organized Additional Information: Click Here
Information from the Planning Department: Click Here
Committee Charge from the BOS: Click Here
RCL Discussion Page: Click Here
Summer Pollution Testing Results: Click Here
RCL Notes of 9-28 Final Report: Click Here
Video Recording Sept 6th: Click Here
RCL Meeting Notes:
Septic System Presentation: Click Here
NH Storm Water Management Guide: Click Here
Committee Final 11/28 Report to Selectmen Click Here

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 to 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.

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. Town Hall and the Board of Selectmen
2. Cancer Cluster Report
3. Discussion of the School Use Feasibility hearing

Other Town Activity
How Good is our Library?
2016 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: 2017 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**

While the Civic News is free (distributed to over 1,000 people), the Civic League does have annual costs that are covered by members (people who contribute $12 or more each year).

**Our annual costs are:** Note only about 10% of the people who open the Civic News are members.

- Website hosting and URL registrations
- Civic News E-mail distribution software (Constant Contact)
- NH Attorney General's fees for being a 501-C and NH Secretary of State filing fees
- Printing and other expenses
- Post Office Box

**Members receive:**

- Invitation to annual meeting in the Fall where members may discuss anything about the organization including the Civic News. Voting for directors, policy, etc... (NOTE, moved to the early Fall).
- Invitation with agenda to each end of the month RCL meeting at the library where RCL business is discussed followed by an open public forum (no longer an RCL meeting). Meetings are the last Wednesday of the month.
- The knowledge that you are participating in raising citizen awareness of, and promoting participation in Rye’s important civic affairs.

**Become a member or renew!!!!**

[Click Here](#) to make an online payment.

[Click Here](#) to read the invitation and complete the membership form

Membership and donations can be made by credit card via our Paypal link at [www.ryecivicleague.org](http://www.ryecivicleague.org) or by mail to Rye Civic League P.O. Box 971 Rye, NH 03870.

**Get Involved:**

The Rye Civic League is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and such organizations are only as good as their membership base whether that is through paid dues, gifts in kind and active participation. What RCL really needs at this time, in addition to regular $12 dues, is more active members who can assist with RCL tasks relating to the writing of the Civic News and other activities.

- Summarize a town meeting for the Civic News
- Editing the Civic News content
- Helping with Candidates Night and other civic events
- Social Media savvy person
- Website and help to fulfill our "digital transformation" vision. We envisioned a more dynamic capture of meeting summaries, a much better website and more dynamic communication.

**Contact Info**

Rye Civic League: civicnews@ryecivicleague.org Steven Borne - President

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.

Rye Civic League, PO Box 971, Rye, NH 03870

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