

Rye Civic News May 2020

from the [Rye Civic League](http://www.ryecivicleague.org) (www.ryecivicleague.org)

"Informing citizens, enhancing direct democracy and supporting the will of the voters"

"Two truths about democracy: you can have whatever you want, you get what you deserve."

RCL Monthly Meetings & Public Forum last Wednesday of the month RPL 7pm
[RCL Facebook Page](#) New 2019 Citizens' Handbook ([Click Here](#))

RCL
Monthly Meeting:
May 27th Zoom
7:00 pm

Meetings
(at Town Hall
unless
indicated)
Please go to
the agendas to
see the remote
instructions.

May 4th:
Recreation
6pm

May 4th: RWD
9:00am

May 6th: ZBA
7pm

May 7th:
Heritage
6:30pm.

May 11th:
Select Board
6:30pm.

May 12th:
Sewer
Commission
8:00am.

May 12th:
Planning
Board 6:00pm.

May 14th:
Conservation
Commission
7:00pm.

May 20th:
School Board
5:00pm.

May 26th:
Select Board

RCL Quarantine Challenge

What is going to be your Civics silver lining? When we emerge from our isolation cocoon and begin our new reality, what will you be doing differently? On the local level and beyond how will you be more engaged, informed, and involved. Will you create a new best practice or engage with one that already exists for a cause that interests you? If you haven't started considering this opportunity, you still have time to think about it. Feel free to share your thoughts with us on [Facebook](#) or [e-mail](#) the RCL.

Rye and COVID-19

1. **Food Drive Saturday, May 2nd** for 68 Hour of Hunger: [Click Here](#)
2. [Click Here](#) This page will be updated as needs and services evolve. It explains the current infrastructure for Rye helping Rye [Click Here](#) for message from Rye Emergency management team.
3. Check/Connect with your neighbors - Elderly, challenged, with small children or properties people cannot get to, they could need some help or just a conversation from a safe distance.
4. Existing Rye Online Networking (FB = Facebook)
[Town of Rye FB](#), [Rye Police FB](#), [Rye Civic League FB](#), [Library FB](#), [Rye Schools FB](#), [Historical Society FB](#), [DPW FB](#), [NextDoor/Rye](#)
5. [Rye Helping Hands & Covid Kindness FB Group](#) (Private/Closed for Rye Residents, Property Owners, and their Families by simple application questions). Please [e-mail](#) if you can help administer this?
6. Transfer Station is only taking drop offs for the trash compactor. [Click Here](#)
7. Help our Police Department by **staying off the beach** when it is closed. Visitors see people on the beach, and this is forcing our Police to engage with visitors.
8. April 27th statement from Select Board. [Click Here](#)
9. Message from Library Director Richmond. [Click Here](#)
10. Update from State Senator Tom Sherman. [Click Here](#)
11. What else can the Rye Civic League be doing to help. Let us know [e-mail](#).

Rye Related At Home Activities

These are some activities with a Rye connection.

1. Library has online services [Click Here](#) Scroll down from [home page](#) also RPL News Letter [e-mail](#) to be added. Will be weekly while library is closed.
2. Take care of some Town Hall business online. [Property](#), [Car](#), [Dog](#), [Beach Stickers](#)
3. Zoom into Town Meetings. [Zoom help](#). Go to [meeting agendas](#) for each meeting. Note, TownHall Streams is capturing the Zoom recordings and you can participate.
4. [Rye Historical Society](#) Activities
 - a) Download the [Rye Beach Walking Tour](#) and take an isolated walk
 - b) Have an interesting Rye Story - [record a story core](#)
 - c) Go to [Resources Page](#) for even more.
 - d) Sunday 5pm reading of L.B. Parson's History of Rye. [Facebook Streaming](#). They are posted on YouTube afterwards. [Click Here](#)
 - e) [Access Rye History](#). [Image Catalog](#).
- 5 Explore Rye Trails (at a safe distance) [Click Here](#) for trails and where to park.
6. Find people you know who don't get the Rye Civic News by sending them the Civic News or the [Link to sign up](#). Residents must request to be on distribution.
Note, this should include college students who can and should vote locally
7. [Read up on Rye](#) - for very interesting information
Free sections of [Alex Herlihy's](#) draft New History of Rye book
History Information from Alex H: [Concerns in Rye](#), [History of Rye Housing](#),
RCL Tools: [Parson's Creek](#), [Rye Last 50/Next 50 years](#), [Water in Rye](#), Skim the [Citizens' Handbook](#) and more. Also - if groups are interested in topics, the RCL will schedule Zoom video calls.

April Highlights

Town Reference Documents on the Town Web Site:

Rye History Museum:
[Click Here](#)

Town Org chart.
[Click Here](#)

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
[Click Here](#)
This plan is updated annually and is a great way to see what the Town is planning for future capital expenditures

[Town of Rye Master Plan \(click here\)](#)

Flood Management:
[Click Here](#)

Rye Rec Master Plan
[\(Click Here\)](#)

Town Forest
[\(Click Here\)](#)

2018 Beach Report [Click Here](#)

GIS Parcel Data: [Click Here](#)

Transfer Station and Recycling Flyer: [Click Here](#)

Town Budgets
Budget Analysis:
[Click Here](#)

- All members of the Beach Committee have stepped down. As of April 2020 this will be a standing committee - not appointed each year. Rye went from a Beach Commission, to a Select Board Beach Committee, now no body helping to manage our beach.
- Select Board is looking to eliminate \$500K of spending, asking for \$200K to come from the schools if possible. Rye Recreation has let go 11 part-time recreation staff, 6 contracted employees, furloughed 1 full time employee. Clerk's office also furloughed one person. Sell Select Board statement. [Click Here](#)
- Thursday April 30th 5pm Select Board/Budget Committee meeting on revenue and spending cuts. [Click Here](#) for Zoom (not on the town website)
- Town Forest a butters (between Parsons Field and Rye Recreation) are upset with Conservation Commission plan for a fence. Select Board is working to get all stakeholders to talk [Town Forest Management Plan Public Hearing May 14th](#)
- No Memorial Day parade but Select Board has asked Recreation for suggestions as to what can be done in addition to the poster and writing contest. [Click Here May 4th Deadline](#)
- Only approval for road race rescinded, Police Chief and Select Board will address weekly starting in July.
- Rye Water Quality** report is now available [Click Here](#)
- Transfer Station will remain as is until at least May 11th. Note, part of the problem was staffing.
- 68 Port Way Cell Tower:** If anyone has concerns, or suggestions on how they would like the tower camouflaged, now is the time to submit those concerns to the state [e-mail](#)
- Rye Historic District Commission received the full \$20K to create comprehensive Design Guidelines. Rye no longer has to contribute \$8K.
- Open Volunteer Positions:** Contact Select Board office [e-mail](#) or Planning Admin

Rye Historic District Commission:	2 Alternates
Planning Board	2 Alternates
Rye Heritage Commission	1 Alternate Vacancy
CIP Committee	1 Member Vacancy
Energy Committee	1 Member Vacancy
Demolition Review Committee	1 Alternative Vacancy
Beach Committee	5 Member Vacancies

General Announcements:

- Rye Recreation Memorial Day Contest is still on. [Click Here](#) May 4th deadline
- Rye Recreation After Care Sign-up is May 11th: [Click Here](#)
- Town Forest Management Plan Public Hearing May 14th
- Know 2020 **Kindergarten or new 1st Graders** - let them know they need to [register Here](#), [More Detail](#) information
- Do you know how Town Offices ended up on the 1st Floor of Town Hall [Click Here](#)
- Rye Recreation SUMMER Programs [Click Here](#)
- Rye Recreation Senior Program:** 2019-2020 Active, Alive [Click Here](#)
- Assessment Data:** Online views of town lots [Click Here](#)
- GIS Mapping** Software Presentation Video: [Click Here](#)
RCL [Conservation Commission notes](#) on finding locations with the GIS

Select Board Meeting April 27th

Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

- \$30K of State money was used to assess the current conditions and recommendations for repairs. This only looked at current drainage assets. Select Board took the responsibility for how to determine where we need additional assets to protect our water resources.
- John Nyhan of the Hampton Chamber (represents all the coastal towns) about coordination of what needs to be done to help open for business. Note: Gov. Sununu has said Hampton cannot open until Mass and Maine are both open.
- Select Board [read a statement](#) that included furlough of one full-time Recreation staff and one Clerk's Office Staff. The eleven Recreational Program staff and six contractors were all let go. Will review with Budget Committee Thursday at 5pm [Click Here](#)
- Financial Stress Test estimates Rye could be short \$400K to \$600K, so splitting that, Select Board is looking reduce \$500K. School is being asked to see if they can reduce spending by \$200K.
- Star Island will be closing for the entire season.
- Only approved Road Race has been rescinded. Memorial Day Parade will be canceled. Select Board and Recreation are looking at trying to do something.
- Recreation needs a decision quickly on July 4th Celebration as expenditures need to be made.
- Transfer Station may not add services back until May 11th.
- Select Board, Conservation and others met with the abutters to discuss protecting the wildlife from dogs off leash.

Town Budget
Worksheet:
[Click Here.](#)

MS-7 Reporting
document:
[Click Here](#)

**Rye Water
District
Budget:**
[Click Here.](#)

**Rye Beach
Budget:**
[Click Here.](#)
RBVD.

**Jenness Beach
Budget:**
[Click Here](#)

**School
Budget:**
Here is a link to
the Proposed
2019-2020
[School Budget.](#)

Rye Trust
Fund
Summary:
[Click Here](#)

**Rye Library
Strategic
Plan:**
[Click Here](#)

How good is
our Library
[Click Here](#)

**Rye Police
Homepage**
[Click Here](#)
Facebook:
[Click Here](#)

Rye Beach
Committee
Facebook
Page [Click
Here](#)

Rye PTA
Webpage
[Click Here](#)

Rye
Elementary
School [Click
Here](#)

Rye Junior
High School
[Click Here](#)

Portsmouth
High School
[Click Here](#)

10. Trolley Barn appraisal RFP going out, Select Board need to establish criteria for selecting a realtor to sell the property.

11. Subdivision for Parsonage needs to be completed by May 31st and there is still work to be done. The Library wants control of the buffer zone.

Select Board Meeting April 23rd and 17th

April 23rd: Non-Public Personal

April 17th: Parsonage Lot Line discussions

No meeting minutes.

Select Board Meeting April 13th

Video Recording: [Click Here](#) Note - images start at the 14 minute mark

Draft Meeting Minutes: Not posted as of April 29th

1. The Conservation Commission is approving installing a fence in the Town Forest (trails behind Parson's Field) as dogs continue to encroach on private property. [Town Forrest Management Plan](#)

Management Plan

2. Abutter informs Select Board that in response to the Towns' inability to address the dog issues, they are considering maximum density low cost/low income housing for their property.

3. Town is very concerned about cash flow, so all planned expenditure were reviewed as the Select Board would only like to move forward with expenditures that can't be postponed.

4. Transfer Station shut down is part COVID-19 and part shortage of staff.

5. There are two remaining tenants who are not out of the Parsonage and this is causing an issue. The Town needs to hand over un-occupied building in a set number of days after the election. While the Housing Partnership may be responsible for helping with the evictions, it may not be a priority for them.

School Board Meeting: April 15th

Proposed 2020-2021 Budget: [Click Here](#)

Rye PTA Website: [Click Here](#)

Superintendent's Bulletin: Feb/March 2020 [Click Here](#) School Policies: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: None

Draft meeting minutes: Not posted

1. Governor Sununu canceled in-person classes in New Hampshire. Rye schools will continue to provide remote instruction for the rest of the year. Board voted to have students and staff work through April vacation, with May 1 & May 4 as No School days for staff and students. This is to give everyone a bit of a rest. Last day of school is June 5.

2. There was a lot of discussion around remote learning, planning for the future and how to best support staff and students.

3. Meeting was held remotely via Google Meet

4. Next School Board meeting is May 20th at 5:00 pm

Rye Districts Information:

[Click Here](#) for information on Rye Districts

NEW 2020 Budgets

Recorded Video of Budget Committee meeting: [Click Here](#)

[Rye Water District Budget](#) [RBVD Budget](#) [JBVD Budget](#)

1. Rye Beach Village District has \$15,000 Warrant to remove and reconstruct 265 feet of sidewalk on Rte. 1A

Rye Water District April 3rd:

2019 Water Quality Report: [Click Here](#)

2018 Portsmouth Water Report: [Click Here](#)

2019 Rye Water Rates: [Click Here](#)

Draft Meeting Minutes:None

1. Water main flushing this week in the areas of Parsons and Ocean Blvd. north of Wallis Sands.

2. RWD is starting the Rte.1A main replacement this week from Harbor Road to 2000 Ocean Blvd. this project is estimated to take approximately one month to complete.

3. There was trespassing with a motorized vehicle on District property in the area of Cedar Run and Bailey Brook wells, no trespass signs will be posted and evaluating better security measures soon.

4. 2019 RWD Water Quality has published, [Click Here](#). The report will be mailed to customers and copies will be available at Town Hall and the Library. The report includes links for additional information on the RWD Website.

Rye Water District Annual Meeting TBD

[Click Here](#) for budget

[Click Here](#) for the Warrant

[Click Here](#) Wallis Rd Main and Garland Well work presentation

1. It was agreed to not put forth warrants to add to the Capital Reserves and Trusts as they have sufficient funds now. A total over **\$438K** [Click Here](#) - back of the budget book
 - \$136,234 Distribution Replacement and Improvement Capital Reserve Fund
 - \$63,450 Equipment and Buildings Capital Reserve Fund
 - \$91,897 Storage Tank Maintenance Trust Fund
 - \$146,792 Rye Water District Expendable Trust Fund
2. \$800K for the Garland Road Pump Station [More Detail](#)
3. \$315K Water main on Wallis Rd from Ocean Blvd to Odiome Drive [More Detail](#)
4. \$30K Storage Tank Maintenance Fund
5. \$1,498,091 for the RWD Operating Budget

Planning Board meeting: April 14th

Learn more about the Planning Board: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Town Draft Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. There have been 2 Technical Review meetings to discuss two of the many conditional requirements for 1215 Ocean Blvd. [Click Here](#) to see seven page Notice of Decision.

LRP Public (Master Plan)

What has happened since 2014: [Click Here](#) Additional 2016 information [Click Here](#) [Click Here](#) to see Durham's website and their master plan as reference.

1. Master Plan has been updated. [Click Here](#) to see Chapters

Planning Board May 12th

Agenda for meeting: Not available

1. Webster at Rye 795 Washington Rd
2. Breakers Condominiums to be razed and replace with a 2-story building

Zoning Board of Adjustment: 68 Port Way April 15th

Tower Building Application: [Click Here](#) (includes site drawings)

Tax Map location: [Click Here](#)

1. [Click Here](#) Photos refute the argument that the tower will be "hidden deep in the woods". Rather, the balloon test brings to light that several miles of the NH Coastal Byway views will be affected by the proposed tower.
2. Variances and special exceptions approved.

Zoning Board of Adjustment: April 1st

Draft meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Recorded video: April 1st: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video April 15th: [Click Here](#)

1. 720 Bracket Rd. request for rehearing was denied 5-0
2. 28 Gray Ct. request for rehearing
3. 68 Port Way Cell Tower variances for the cell tower were granted along with the special exceptions for the driveway. moved to April 15th.

Zoning Board of Adjustment Agenda: May 6th

Agenda: Not posted

Conservation Commission (CC) April 7th and 14th

Learn more about the Conservation Commission: [Click Here](#)

Conservation Land Maps: [Click Here](#)

Wetlands Map [Click Here](#)

Town Forest map: [Click Here](#) Town Forest Management Plan [Click Here](#)

April 7th Draft Minutes: [Click Here](#) Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

April 14th Draft Minutes: [Click Here](#) Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

April 21st: No minutes Video Recording: [Click Here](#)

RCL Meeting Notes; [Click Here](#)

1. Both meetings focused on developing a Natural Resources Inventory that includes, Water Resources, Watersheds, Surface Waters, Wildlife, Agriculture and Forestry, Scenic Resources, Historical & Cultural, Public, Conserved, and Recreational Lands.
2. If a new Mater Plan Chapter is created, it will have much overlap with Chapter 7 Natural Resources.
3. Work group evaluated other towns (see example links in the minutes/notes) and will use what they liked to create a template.
4. May 14th will be the Public Hear

Demolition Review: April 6th.

Draft Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Recorded video: [Click Here](#)

1. 146 Perkins Rd was determined to not be significant.
2. Discussion of alternates and appointments.

Library Board of Trustees: April 13th

Trustee Home Page: [Click Here](#)

Library 2019 Usage Statistics; [Click Here](#) #1 NH Library c [lick Here](#)

Draft Meeting Minutes April 13th: [Click Here](#)

Recorded video: none

1. Jeff Ross is the new Library Trustee Chair.
2. Patrons are grateful for all the Library has been doing to support residents during the Covid-19 isolation time.
3. Board wants to assure that the Town/Library maintains control of the buffer zones between the Library and the Parsonage.
4. Board discussed future space needs and the post Covid-19 world.
5. Covid-19 note from Director Richmond. [Click Here](#)

Recreation Commission Meeting: February 10th

Learn more about Rye Recreation: [Click Here](#)

[Click Here](#) to see the Rye Recreation Master Plan

New: Summer 2020 program Registrations: [Click Here](#)

2019-2020 Active, Alive and over 55 Programs: [Click Here](#)

1. After Care Sign ups start May 11th: [Click Here](#)
2. No meeting. One staff furloughed. All eleven part-time and six contractors all dismissed.

Heritage Commission: April 10th

Learn more about the Heritage Commission: [Click Here](#)

Heritage Commissions Facebook page: [Click Here](#)

Draft Meeting Minutes: [Click here](#)

Recorded Video; [Click Here](#)

1. Meeting focused on the vendor selection for updated evaluation of the Pulpit Rock Tower as to work completed and potential future work. The Heritage Committee will wait to hear what the "Friends of Pulpit Rock Tower" say after their May 6th meeting.
2. Graveyard project listing and photos are now on the town website. [Click Here](#)

Rye Energy Committee Meeting: March 23rd

Learn More about the Energy Committee: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

1. Will renew the Clean Energy NH Municipal Energy membership
2. Next meeting will move to May 5th, most likely remotely
3. From past minutes: Revision Energy has provided a proposal for solar panels on five municipal locations.

[BOS Overview](#), [Executive summary](#), [Responses to Questions](#)

Rye Recycling Education Committee February 18th

Video Recording: Not available

Draft town meeting minutes: not available

1. Plan for 2020 discussed
2. International Composting week discussed
3. Virtual Swap shop discussed

Rye Town Center Committee March 11th

Draft Meeting minutes: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

1. RTCC is focused on getting the TAP grant moving.
2. Selectman Winslow asked the RTCC to think about including the TD Bank land, but not questioning the move of Town Hall employees to TD Bank.
3. See the [meeting notes](#) for the summary from the Library Consultant work

Sewer Commission Meeting January 14th

No January meeting minutes

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Mosquito Commission Meeting:

Learn more about the Mosquito Commission: [Click Here](#)

Mosquito Complaint form: [Click Here](#)

1. Larvaciding is proceeding at a pace,

Historic District Commission Meetings April 16th

Learn more about the Historic District: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Draft meeting minutes: Not posted

1. The Rye Historic District Commission received a grant of \$20,000.00 from the Certified Local Government Program for its project to create comprehensive Design Guidelines for the Historic District of Rye.

2. The grant is particularly appreciated as originally the grant requested \$12,000 with \$8,000 to come from the town. It is gratifying to see that the historic nature of our town center and the New Hampshire Isles of Shoals are viewed with such respect by the State of New Hampshire that the full amount of the cost for the project qualified as a significant priority of the State to insure consistent enforcement standards to preserve our historical features in the Town of Rye.

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.

Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Committee Meeting: November 18th

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town Meeting Minutes: Not available

Draft Capital Improvement Plan 2020-2025: [Click Here](#)

1. 2020-2025 Capital Improvement Plan was presented and accepted by the Select Board on November 25th. The Department and Districts anticipated capital expenses for the next six years total over eighteen million dollars. The detailed report is available on the town's website. The tax rate is set at \$10.22. Every \$21 thousand raise the taxes 1c per \$1,000

2. Largest requests:

- a) Conservation Commission: \$3M
- b) Fire Department: \$1,066,000
- c) RWD: \$11,783,000 (multiple projects)
- d) Public Works Culverts: \$550,000
- e) Paving projects: \$2,160,000

3. Table of Projects: [Click Here](#)

Beach Committee Meeting September 18th:

Facebook page for Beach Committee: [Click Here](#)

Draft Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

1. Major point of discussion was the dune grass in the area of F St and G St ocean front whereby the property owners planted well beyond the boundaries of their own property and planted on the public beach taking a good portion of access to the public's beach (including town residents) at high tide.

2. The beach committee sent a letter to the BOS which was entered into record at the 9/23/19 BOS meeting

3. The beach committee expects a course of action to be outlined by the BOS at the next meeting 10/7/19.

4. The committee is expecting to have a site walk of our beaches the week of 9/30/19 though no firm date has decided.

Trustees of Trust Fund Meeting August 15th:

Draft Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here](#)

Recorded Video: [Click Here](#)

1. Accounts liquidity positions were discussed. Large accounts at approximately 9%.

2. Market conditions and political environment discussed.

3. Trustees decided to maintain liquidity levels.

4. Average performance of the Trust Funds were 11.23% YTD through July 31st.

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](#)

1. Summary of PFC carcinogens impacting Garland Well. [Click Here](#)

2. Water in Rye Presentation from the RCL [Click Here](#)

3. CMA Engineers Grove Rd. Landfill presentation: [Click Here](#)
RCL video of the November 29th presentation: [Click Here](#)
RWD Presentation: [Click Here](#)
4. RCL (supported by State Rep. Messmer) 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](#)
RCL Water in Rye Presentation: [Click Here](#)
Grove Rd. Landfill CMA Presentation: [Click Here](#)
PFC's 101 from Rep. Messmer: [Click Here](#)
RWD presentation: [Click Here](#)

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](#)
December 2018 Report: [Click Here](#)

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:

Other Town Activity

Rye Town Handbook from the Rye Civic League:

NOTE: 2019 Update are available at the Library, the Lazy Bird, Native 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 1,100 people), the Civic League does have annual costs that are partly 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...
- 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, RPL 7pm
- 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 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 effective 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.