Rye Civic News September 2020

from the Rye Civic League (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)

September 8th Political Party Primaries
1. You are paying for this election, so make your voice be heard. Anyone concerned about their safety or others can vote absentee.  Click Here.
2. Masks will be required inside RES for voting, outside accommodations will be made for those who can't wear a mask.
3. Voting information from Town Moderator Eaton  Click Here
4. Sample Democratic Ballot  Sample Republican Ballot

Rye and COVID-19
1. Rye Schools are opening - Information Page.  PTA signs are asking we all do our part so that the children can get to and stay in school.  See Rye plan.  PHS is starting 1 day in, remote.
2. Town Hall is open.  Read the rules:  Click Here
3. Existing Rye Online Networking (FB = Facebook)
5. Rye focused activities:  Click Here

August Highlights
1. Negotiations for the proposal for Library paying $250K for part of Parsonage lot, D. Philbrick gets the other Parsonage lot and Town gets TD Bank property are on going.  Click Here  Library would also have to share costs to demolish the Parsonage.  A special Town Deliberative Meeting and Vote would be required.  Planning Board site walk Sept. 2nd 5pm Agenda
2. Mae Bradshaw was appointed from a group of five applicants by the Select Board to fill the Select Board seat until March 2020.  Seat was vacated by Keriann Roman.
3. Wallis Rd Extension Beach was closed for five days due to excessive bacteria.  Click Here for summary of contamination from past years.  Parsons Creek Pollution information  Click Here
4. Select Board Assistant resigned for a different job, closer to home.
5. 68 Port Way Cell tower neighbors have launched a letter writing campaign to have the planned cell tower camouflaged.  Click Here
6. Lot across from the Atlantic Grill received a special exception and nine set back variances. There are eight conditions recommended by the Conservation Commission.  NOD for details..
7. No more expansions or extensions due to capacity limitations  the Jeness Beach and Church Rd. pumping stations. More information
8. Owners of 0 Central and two McLaughlin Lane lots looking to combine the three lots.  Tax map image.  See Sewer commission minutes Click Here
9. 421 South Road Technical Review continues.  Diagrams
10. Planning Board is asking the ZBA to confirm the Webster at Rye expansion variance based on the current plans (now an additional septic).
11. Town will be implementing a process for bulk dumping, where residents pay first at Town Hall, before going to the transfer station.
12. The consolidated Building/Planning/Zoning Codes that was approved in March does not have the approved FloodPlain ordinance information, i.e. it was not updated correctly.
13. Open Volunteer Positions:  Contact Select Board office e-mail or Planning Admin
   Rye Historic District Commission:  2 Alternates Vacancies
   Planning Board:  2 Alternates Vacancies
   Rye Heritage Commission:  1 Alternate Vacancy
September 10th: Conservation Commission 7pm.

September 14th: Recreation Commission 6pm.

September 14th: Select Board 6:30pm.

September 15th: Planning Board 6pm.

September 28th: Select Board 6:30pm.

August 24th: Select Board.

Town Reference Documents on the Town Website:
- Rye History Museum: Click Here
- Town Org chart: Click Here
- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP): Click Here
- Town of Rye Master Plan (Click here)
- Flood Management: Click Here
- Rye Rec

General Announcements:
1. Don't forget to vote in the Party Primaries on September 8th. In person or absentee.
2. Rye Recreation Fall Soccer Click Here
3. Library is now open for Browsing appointments.
4. 2020 Census is important Click Here. Have a census brought to you. Click Here
5. Town is looking to hire a part-time building inspector as Peter Rowell has retired. Click Here
6. Seeking 20th century Rye stories for new history of Rye. Click Here
7. Know 2020 Kindergarten or new 1st Graders - let them know they need to register Here, More Detail information
8. Steven Borne launched the Common Denominator Newsletter: August Newsletter provides civic and non-partisan group information.
9. Assessment Data: Online views of town lots Click Here
10. GIS Mapping Software Presentation Video: Click Here
RCL Conservation Commission notes on finding locations with the GIS

Select Board Meeting: August 31st
Recorded Video: Click Here
1. Select Board representation assignments adjusted as Mae Bradshaw is serving for the remainder of this term.
2. Town will support Hampton and other towns on the Rail Trail.
3. Chief Walsh predicts there may not be warning for when the Governor opens up parking on Ocean Blvd., so he is working with neighboring towns to have a plan in place...
4. Rye resident sent a letter in favor of not allowing parking on Ocean Blvd to return.
5. Board may discuss parking meters on Ocean Blvd. at a future weekend.
6. Discussed researching the possibility of outsourcing the Financial assistant tasks.

Select Board Meeting August 24th meeting & Sitewalk
Video Recording: Click Here
Draft Meeting Minutes: Note Available
1. Site walk of the Parsonage completed prior to the meeting.
2. After resident comments, Select Board member asks for resident suggestions. Click Here
3. Town is moving forward with the request to split the Parsonage lots.
4. Several residents offered to complete remainder of the Select Board term. Mae Bradshaw was selected based on her knowledge base from currently serving on multiple committees, commissions and boards.
5. Rye Town Center Committee is interested in engaging again, but Parsonage/Library decision puts this in flux..
6. Letter was posted that the 120 Brackett Rd Cell Tower application open, as it is Verizon's lever to push the newer proposed 68 Port Way Tower location forward. Click Here
7. DPW can't be collecting money for Bulk material, plus it is not a good practice for attendants to be taking cash. New process requiring receipts from Town Hall prior to disposal will be implemented. Details to follow.
8. Select Board ignored resident's request to discuss the actions associated with the closure of Wallis Rd. Extension during the new business segment. Click Here to see how high bacteria levels have been the past three years.

Select Board Meeting August 17th
Video Recording: Click Here
Draft Meeting minutes: Not available.
1. Town Attorney did not have his sketch pad so he could not do the planning work on the Parsonage swap parking space options. Negotiations are sill in progress as of Friday, August 28th.

Select Board Meeting August 13th
Video Recording: Click Here
Draft Meeting Minutes: Click Here
1. Parsonage/TD Bank exchange Click Here
2. Select Board dismissed Town Moderator Bob Eaton request that the Select Board not hold the required Deliberative Meeting and ballot vote this Fall, but wait until March out of safety and workload concerns.
3. Face Masks will be required to enter RES to vote this Fall.
Select Board Meeting August 10th

Recorded Video: Click Here

Draft meeting minutes: Not Available

1. Certified Legal Government (CGL) funds were accepted to help develop better Historic District Guidelines.
2. $500 Fine for property owners have started selling beach parking spaces after March 2020.
3. Rockingham Planning Presentation on shoulder widening presented to the Select Board. Report is still not posted for the public.
4. School Board shared re-opening plans with the Select Board. Click Here for most current plans.
5. If the State wants sidewalks along the Ocean Blvd Seawall, the town does not have sidewalk snow removal equipment.
6. Antique Dealer would like to purchase the Trolley Barn and convert to an Antique store. Select Board want to assess the completeness the warrant article required.

School Board Meeting: August 5th and 19th.

Proposed 2020-2021 Budget: Click Here
Rye PTA Website: Click Here
Superintendent's Bulletin: Feb/March 2020 Click Here School Policies: Click Here
Most current version of the Draft School Reentry plan can be viewed Click Here

August 5:

No meeting minutes
Recorded video available Click Here
1. Board approves final school re-entry plans and protocols.
2. Parents/guardians will be asked to report (1) whether their child/children will attend classes in person or remotely, (2) whether they will utilize busing to/from school

August 19:

No meeting minutes
Recorded video: Click Here
1. Rye School Board launches dedicated school website for school reopening: Click Here
2. Board agrees to continue to lease space to Rye Recreation for after school program as long as building safety requirements are met.
3. Board submits final Capital Improvement Plan items to CIP Committee
4. Purchase of 2 large tents per school approved to accommodate outdoor class rooms.

Rye Districts Information:

Click Here for information on Rye Districts
Recorded Video of Budget Committee meeting: Click Here

Rye Water District August 5th

2019 Water Quality Report: Click Here
2019 Rye Water Rates: Click Here
Draft Meeting Minutes: Click here

Wallis Rd. and Garland Well project overview. Click Here

1. 2019 RWD Water Quality has published, Click Here
2. Breakfast Hill water tank will have a tank mixer added.
3. Some customers who had increased usage saw a second quarter bill for the first time.
4. Testing for the replacement Cedar Well and Baily Brook wells has to wait until late September when all water can come from the Garland well.
5. RWD discussed the suggestion from DES that Rye charge "Impact" fees for new developments. The town could also charge impact fees but has stated they are not capable.

Planning Board meeting: August 11th

Learn more about the Planning Board: Click Here
Recorded Video: Click Here

1. Webster at Rye is going back to the ZBA to confirm the approved variance for septic
systems will hold based on the current changes.

2. 120 Brackett Rd. Cell Tower has been continued to January 2021 as Verizon does not have the building plans for 68 Port Way Cell tower. [Letter]
3. Continuing Parsonage Lot Line request and 711 Long John Rd. 3-lot subdivision. [NOD Case #8-2020]
4. 133 Washington Rd was granted 6-0 a second curb cut.
5. 81 West Rd conditionally approved to wave fees as owner facilitated sale of adjacent land for conservation. N. Hampton and Rye ZBA need to approve. [NOD]

**LRP Public (Master Plan)**
What has happened since 2014: [Click Here] Additional 2016 information [Click Here]

*Editors Note:* [Click Here] to see Durham's website and their master plan as reference.

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

**Technical Review Meeting: August 25th**
Recorded Video: [Click Here]

Draft meeting minutes: Not available
1. Stoneleigh Rd. discussions. [Diagrams]
2. Haul Road restoration.

**Rules and Regulations: August 18th**
Recorded Video: [Click here]

Draft meeting minutes: Not available
1. HDC and Demolition Committee requests consideration of eliminating demolition review in Historic District and to require abutter notices of public hearings for buildings of historical significance.
2. Approved Code Book did not contain the correct Floodplain Ordinance wording. This mistake needs to be corrected.
3. Chair Losik reported out on her extensive research on NHDES wetland rules and Comprehensive Wetland Planning tool.
4. Chair Losik pointed out how Rye's wetlands ordinances are not as thorough as Hampton and Newmarkets.

**Planning Board September 15th**
Agenda for meeting: Not available

Webster at Rye 795 Washington Rd Continued form 8-11
Parsonage Lot lines continued from 811
711 Long John Rd. 3-lot subdivision

**Zoning Board of Adjustment: August 26th**
Draft meeting minutes: [Click Here]

Recorded video: [Click Here] may be corrupted
1. Star Island. Granted building code waiver for septic 6ft from bedrock [NOD]
2. 35 Big Rock Rd. Approved shed variances with the set backs. [NOD]
3. 1 Willow Lane: Approved variances for expansion of a non-conforming structure and generator pad. [Case #29 NOD]
4. 33 Sagamore Rd. (lot across from the Atlantic Grill): Granted 1 special exception and 9 variances, but with 8 conditions. [NOD Case 30a and 30b]

**Zoning Board of Adjustment: August 5th:**
Recorded Video: [Click Here]

Draft Meeting Minutes: [Click Here]
1. 112 Perkins Rd. Denied 3-2 for retaining wall for not meeting hardship. [NOD]
2. 80 Sagamore Rd. Special exception granted 5-0 for driveway in wetlands buffer [NOD]
3. 46 Pollcock Drive. Variances granted 5-0 for expansion of non-conforming building [NOD #24]
4. 378 Wallis Rd. Granted 5-0 expansion of non-conforming structure in the setbacks [NOD #22]

**Zoning Board of Adjustment Agenda: September 2nd**
Agenda: Click Here
1. 218 Locke Rd. Demolish an existing structure
2. 741 Ocean Blvd. Special exceptions for sighs
3. 391 Central Rd. Expand a non-conforming structure
4. 81 West Rd. Shed variance
5. 546 Washington Rd. Expansion of non conforming building and demolish and replace barn
6. 4 Washington Rd. Multiple variances for septic in the wetland buffer
7. 1 & 3 Cable Rd. Multiple variance extensions
8. 24 Glendale Rd. Multiple variances for expansion
9. 9 Perkins Rd. Rinsing station set backs
10. 0 Bracket Rd. Administrative appeal

**Conservation Commission (CC) July 9th and other meetings**

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]
1. Agenda August 13 Meeting: [Click Here] Draft Minutes not available as of August 30.
Meeting Video Streaming: [Click Here]
2. Site Walk Minutes August 20: [Click Here]
O Brackett Rd, Map 19, Lot 136: Proposed lot line for potential gift of land to CC Location
3. Minutes August 24: [Click Here]
21-23 Parsons Rd Map 23 Lot 1: Notice of violation for cutting in 75' buffer to be resolved with a new planting and restoration plan to be prepared. Location Here

**Library Board of Trustees: August 4th**

Trustee Home Page: [Click Here]
Library 2019 Usage Statistics; Click Here #1 NH Library c [Click Here]
Draft Meeting Minutes: [Click Here]
Recorded Video: [Click Here]
1. Browsing time slots were available as of August 17th.
2. Five options on the Parsonage property were discussed. [Click Here] for what the Select Board finalized on.

**Parsonage Related LBOT meetings August**

August 7th Video: [Click Here]
August 8th Video: [Click Here]
August 25th: Video: [Click Here]

Reference documents:
1. Library Trustees Public Statement. [Click Here]
2. Letter to Select Board May 11th. [Click Here]
3. Letter on the Maintenance May 22nd [Click Here]
4. June 5th Library legal letter to the Select and Planning Boards. [Click Here]
Parsonage Condition Report from 2015. [Click Here]
Real Estate Appraisal [Click Here]
5. August Agreement posted by Select Board [Click Here]

**Recreation Commission Meeting: August 3rd.**

Learn more about Rye Recreation: [Click Here]
[Click Here] to see the Rye Recreation Master Plan
Summer 2020 program Registrations: Canceled
2019-2020 Active, Alive and over 55 Programs: [Click Here]
Recorded Video:
Draft Meeting Minutes: [Click Here]
1. Rye Soccer Association will be using fields and discussed procedures.
2. Rye Recreation soccer has 72 children and will operate in small pods.
3. Discussion of the Rye Congregational Church space this fall for After Care and other activities.
4. Recreation supplies and equipment are in the new building
5. CIP projects are New Public Restrooms for 2021 and gravel parking lot for 2022.
6. Logistics discussed for the Fall After Care program, plan is to move forward one month at a time.

**Heritage Commission: No August meeting**

Learn more about the Heritage Commission: [Click Here]
Heritage Commissions Facebook page: [Click Here]

**Rye Energy Committee Meeting: August 4th**

Learn More about the Energy Committee: [Click Here]
Recorded Video: [Click Here]
Draft Town Meeting Minutes: [Click Here]
1. Progress is being made with Solar Panel financial evaluation work, but a drop on the source pricing on August 1st impacts the numbers.
2. Meeting with the Exeter group that is looking to create a local energy buying group.
3. Eversource demanded charges are based on 5-minute intervals and there could be a potential savings for the Town to switch to Eversource.
4. Jim Gordon and RWD are both looking at implementing new technology to fine tune energy usage.

Rye Recycling Education Committee February 18th
1. Plan for 2020 discussed
2. International Composting week discussed
3. Virtual Swap shop discussed

Sewer Commission Meeting August 18th
Draft meeting minutes: Click Here
1. 0 Alder Ave. - The lot must be first coded as build-able before public sewer can be connected.
2. 0 Central Rd./McLaughlin Drive considering merging lots and requested estimates for sewer connection costs. Click Here
3. 7 East Atlantic Ave. Sewer work was being carried out without a permit.
4. 146 Perkins Rd. Discussed as the installer did not call for an inspection.

Sewer Commission Meeting: August 10th
Draft meeting minutes: Click Here
1. Passed Moratorium on extensions and expansions due to capacity limits at Jenness Beach and Church Rd., so more more extensions or expansions.

Mosquito Commission Meeting: August 18th
Learn more about the Mosquito Commission: Click Here
Mosquito Complaint form: Click Here
Program Overview from Dragon Mosquito
Recorded Video: Click Here
July update from Dragon Fly: Click Here
1. As of July no NH EEE or WNV
2. Massachusetts has EEE and/or WNV in 20 communities, with one human infection.
3. Marches were larvicided for 12 days in July, 353 catch basins were treated.

Rye Town Center Committee July 22nd
Recorded Video: Click Here
No Draft meeting minutes:

Beach Committee August 19th
Recorded Video: Click Here
No Draft meeting minutes: Click Here

Historic District Commission Meetings May 28th
Learn more about the Historic District: Click Here
Recorded Video: Click Here
Draft meeting minutes: Not posted

Demolition Review: Demolition August 25th
Draft Meeting Minutes:
Recorded Video: Click Here

Capital Improvement Plan August 20th
Draft Meeting Minutes:
Recorded Video: Click Here

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.

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**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.**

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

**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](#)
   1. RCL video of the November 29th presentation: [Click Here](#)
   2. 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](#)
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
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.