

----- Original Message -----

From: William Epperson <WEpperson@town.rye.nh.us>

To: Shawn Joyce Janice Ireland <JIreland2@RYENH.US>,

Subject: RE: Ensuring Rye's Government Supports Diversity

The Select Board is aware of your concerns with the process by which all non-elected positions are filled. However, this process, which was formalized in 2017, applies equally to all Boards, Committees and Commissions through-out the town and does not discriminate on any basis. If a Conservation members term is expiring and that member seeks re-appointment, then the member would submit a letter to the Select Board requesting consideration. The Select Board in turn would request a letter of recommendation from the full Commission. If the member is not seeking re-appointment or steps down during their term, then the position is posted for a period of 30 days at which time letters of interest may be submitted. Any supporting documentation that you have requested be attached to minutes will be as soon as the minutes are posted. We will not be discussing this item again until such a time as the policy is modified.

**From:** Shawn Joyce

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 27, 2022 10:42 AM

**To:** Janice Ireland <JIreland2@RYENH.US>; William Epperson <WEpperson@town.rye.nh.us>;

**Cc:** Shawn Joyce

**Subject:** Ensuring Rye's Government Supports Diversity

Dear Board of Selectmen:

Please see the attached letter that was published in the Portsmouth Herald on 4/19/22. I respectfully request that it, as well as this email, be noted on the 5/9/22 BOS meeting agenda and included in the meeting minutes. I also respectfully request that the BOS have a public discussion at the 5/9/22 BOS meeting as to why the selectmen oppose the following:

1. Ensuring Town Policy offers all residents, including protected classes, an opportunity to serve on the Rye Conservation Commission.
2. Having a public application and process as well as keeping public records for all residents interested in serving on the RCC.
3. BOS publicly interviewing all residents seeking appointment to the RCC.

These three items are standard for well governed communities, preventing discrimination and allowing diversity. Residents of Rye would like to understand why the BOS and RCC work against having a fair, open, public appointment process that affords all residents an opportunity to serve on the RCC. With all the new citizens moving into our community, the selectmen have a fiduciary duty to ensure there is an opportunity for diversity on the RCC. One would think that RCC members would support that as well.

If the BOS is willing to have a public discussion, I ask that residents are given adequate notice. Currently BOS meeting agendas are made public just before 5PM on the Friday before a Monday meeting. This practice does not allow residents suitable time to plan, attend BOS meetings and be part of discussions. For example, when the BOS discussed changes to Town Policy on 4/11/22, residents had little notice. Considering the changes adversely affect residents, ensuring little to no chance of diversity on the RCC, it does not seem reasonable to have rushed through such modifications with little ability for the public to comment. Respectfully - Shawn

Shawn Joyce

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