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To the Editor:

In his letter of April 15, 2022, Shawn Joyce made several inaccurate statements regarding the Town of Rye's policy for appointing residents to non-elective boards and commissions. The rules governing the appointment process are not new, have been in place for over a decade, and were formalized in 2017. The Rye Selectboard hasn't made any attempt to modify the long-standing procedures. Although Mr. Joyce focused exclusively on the Conservation Commission, the policy applies to all non-elective volunteer positions on Rye boards and commissions.

The Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) is not composed of "just long term, homogenous insiders" as Mr. Joyce claims. The RCC has a diverse membership composed of residents with work experience in the fields of engineering, law, real estate, hydrology, forestry, mental health and teaching. Member tenure on the RCC is also diverse with members having served 2, 3, 5, 8, 9, 15, 20 and 23 years on the commission. In 2021 there were two advertised vacancies on the RCC to which any Rye resident could have applied.

The appointment process is open, transparent, and fair and has allowed volunteers to join Rye's many non-elective boards and work on behalf of the town.

Suzanne McFarland, Chair

Rye Conservation Commission