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## **School Board: Starts at 6:44**

### **Laurie Marshal Belden**

Good evening everyone, I'd like to thank the Rye Civic League and everyone who put together this event tonight, with special thanks to Moderator Bob Eaton. My name is Laura Marshall Belden, and I have two boys, one in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and one in 1<sup>st</sup>.

I moved to the Seacoast area 40 years ago. My father retired from the Navy as a Captain and spent decades in town government. My mother has a master's in education helping struggling students learn to read. She worked at Rye Elementary. In my family, giving back to the community and taking the public education route was valued. I attended Rye Junior High, Portsmouth High School, and UNH where I received my bachelor's in civil engineering. This solid public-school background allowed me to later attend Stanford University where I received my master's in environmental engineering and science.

I specialize in project and program management and was the Deputy Program Manager for a \$500M coastal restoration program when my first child was born. I am running for school board because I want to provide our students with similar opportunities - a strong educational foundation, from which they can reach for the stars. I want to enable each student to rise to their own best potential. This requires an environment where they are safe and nurtured (both physically and mentally), and an education that challenges and engages them, and adequately prepares them for high school, college, and beyond.

That's why I identified the need and worked with administrators to bring back algebra to 8<sup>th</sup> grade next year. I have been serving as Secretary on the Wedgewood Committee at RJH and on the Parent Advisory Committee. Over the past year, people have mentioned that I would be a great addition to the School Board. As election time neared and there was an identified need to fill this role, more people asked. I agreed to run because I, and many others, feel I am the best person for the job. I will balance providing our children with a top-notch education while remaining fiscally responsible, and I ask for your vote on March 12. Thank you.

### **ALLYSON KREYCIK**

Thank you for attending tonight! I believe I would be an asset to the Rye School Board. I have been a successful mortgage banker for over 20 years and I understand budgets. I get the privilege of helping families and individuals achieve their financial goals every day. The budget for our school is large and with the cost to educate a child in Rye being nearly \$50 thousand dollars per year. The board needs members with strong financial backgrounds to help with this issue. I am an advocate for public schools. I grew up in rural South Dakota attending public schools and went on to the University of Nebraska where I met my husband Jon and graduated with a degree in Business Administration. I believe in servant leadership and I believe in giving back to the community when asked. Girls softball, Rye Rec basketball, little league, the school theater productions, the PTA, Kona Ice Truck, bake sales – the answer is always yes. I am running because I care about our children. I have experience being a board member of the Rockingham County Child Advocacy Center. I want to take this experience to our schools. I am running for our kids who are bored and need challenged, the children struggling and need more help, and the students in our schools who struggle with food insecurity. Just this week in a meeting with the Junior High guidance counselor I learned there are a dozen school lunch accounts that are in a deep deficit. I want to re-instate the Angel Fund – so that students don't have to worry about their lunch account balances or food when they are not in school. I wholeheartedly believe I can fix this. Finally, I believe in classic curriculum that caters to all students and meets each where they are at. I also think that we have amazing talent in our small Rye community in the area of healthcare, science, art, finance and trades and that we should tap more into that experience towards our children's education. I want to help the students of Rye – be fully prepared emotionally, academically and socially for high school and beyond. Thank you for your vote on Tuesday!

## **Budget Committee: Starts at 16:00**

### **Julie Tucker Budget**

My name is Julie Tucker.

I have lived in Rye with my husband Joe for over 26 years. I never dreamed I would be running for budget committee.

I am running because of last year's tax increase and the fact that several senior Rye residents - one a dear friend- have told me they are afraid they won't be able to stay here with these tax increases. They have been here most of their lives.

I am hoping to join the budget committee to add a new voice that will work to ensure town services meet the needs of our citizens in a cost effective manner, while recommending a budget that does not hurt our residents with large tax increases. Thank you for your consideration and I ask for your vote March 12.

### **Kate Dumas**

I'm Kate Dumas. I'm running for a three-year term on the budget committee.

My family and I moved to Rye 10 years ago. We love this community. We spend time at the beach, the kids go to the junior high school and play sports in town, we have great neighbors and friends.

This fall, I was invited to fill a vacancy on the budget committee. It was eye-opening to sit down with the heads of the police and fire departments, public works, committees, and districts to review their operating budgets and capital expenditures. We have extraordinary people serving our town.

In my campaign signs I highlight my experience and engagement.

I have over 20 years experience in the investment industry. Most recently I worked with the finance and investment committees of universities, hospitals, research organizations, museums, and other not for profits guiding their financial decision-making. As a managing partner, I served on the firm's Executive Committee and Board. I have an MBA from the Stern School of Business at NYU and degrees in Economics and French Literature from McGill University in Montreal. I earned the Chartered Financial Analyst designation in 2013.

In 2022, I set out to spend more time with my family and give back to my community. In addition to the budget committee, my engagement includes the finance and strategic planning committees of the Southeast Land Trust (SELT), the Sustainability Advisory Board at the University of New Hampshire, and teaching financial literacy at schools and universities.

I'd love to continue my engagement on the budget committee. Specifically I'd like to leverage my experience making financial concepts approachable to enhance the town's understanding of the budget and process. I'd also like to expand on the efforts of the committee to bring citizens into the process earlier. I'm interested in ensuring the alignment of the budget with the master plan and emerging challenges like the climate, and exploring sources of revenue to offset town expenditures.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and hopefully your vote.

**Doug Abrams**

Mr. Abrams could not attend and did not send a statement.

**Library Committee 2 3 years Positions: Starts at 29:40**

**JoAnn Hodgdon**, Rye Library Trustee.

I am a native of Portsmouth, married with two children, 35 and 19.

As a Rye resident for 20 years, my history and the Towns are intertwined. The "Rye on the Rocks" fish houses at Bass Beach were built and owned by my great-grandfather and grandfather for decades.

I attended Texas Christian University and the University of NH. I have a BA in English; a Minor in Communications and I'm a former dancer with the Boston Ballet Company.

I am a former Board Member of the Rye Education Foundation and served as Secretary for the Grants Committee.

As a Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce Board Member, I was tasked as Founder and Chair of the eCoast Technology Roundtable and consequently received the Mass High Tech All-Star Award for my trade association achievements. I also write a technology business column for Seacoast Online.

As a facilitator for the initial Portsmouth Listens study circle, I was tasked with creating, writing, and brand-messaging a working vision statement for the City of Portsmouth Master Plan.

An entrepreneur and Co-Founder of my own company, for almost 30 years I work alongside my husband building teams of employees, all working towards common goals and projects.

Prior to my election 3 years ago, I attended many Trustee meetings and was so encouraged by the opportunity and the future of the newly acquired "Common", that I ran for office. I am also a member of the Friends of the Rye Public Library.

According to the NH Library Trustees Association, "trustees should be elected for the special talents they can contribute to the library". Our diversity in the community, and professional and personal skills dictate our abilities to fulfill our obligations as a Board.

The Trustees, along with our Advisory Board and Director, have spent the last several years planning the Library Common and now it is time to execute on that Plan.

Ten years ago, I volunteered as co-chair to the Wedgewood Project raising \$90,000 to purchase the property behind Rye Junior High, and I am *still* your community liaison to that committee and the property our children all enjoy. This is just one example of Rye community effort, not unlike Rye 400th!

In addition to supporting the library's ongoing operations and robust programming, I am seeking re-election to respond to the request from you -to create an iconic, more vibrant Town Center.

The Library Common, a diamond in the rough in the center of Rye, longs to be a gathering place and the hub for theatre, arts and humanities, school activities and Town events, bridging all ages, in addition to serving further programming of Library needs.

NH Library Trustees are tasked to serve, improve, and promote NH public libraries...and that's what we do.

Please consider me for Re-Election as your Rye Public Library Trustee.

Thank you,

JoAnn Hodgdon  
Rye Public Library Trustee

## **Jeff Ross** Candidate Statement

My name is Jeff Ross. I'm completing my second term on the Rye Public Library Board of Trustees and am seeking a third.

This is what I believe to be most relevant to proper stewardship of the Library:

1. Hire Good People: We have a capable, experienced director who has assembled and led a similarly highly qualified staff that make the Library a "go to" place for residents of all ages. The current Board has an excellent relationship with the Director and provides the support needed to perform his job effectively. Hiring and supporting the Library Director is perhaps the most fundamental duty of any Board of Trustees.
2. Have Good Policies: This Board has been especially dedicated to maintaining sound policies. We've worked together to update parts of our employee manual. We've revised our materials collection and programming selection policies to provide direction to the staff in selecting those and to the public should they have questions about them. And we've continued to use our "performance-based" compensation policy to ensure that salaries are both fair and controlled, as evidenced by this year's budget, just a 3.2% increase from a year ago, almost entirely the result of increased health insurance premiums beyond our control.
3. Have a Perspective Not an Agenda: The Trustees have also remained "mission driven" in working to implement elements of the strategic plan, to use it as a road map for the Library's future, and to meet the evolving needs of the town. This is why the Trustees planned and presented the idea of developing the Common. It addresses several elements of that plan by creating a facility that allows for a breadth of programming for both large and small events. And it addresses the town's long-expressed desire for a gathering place in the town center.

I believe it is responsible for the Trustees to move this project forward given its importance to the Library as well as to the town center. The development of this plan has been years in the making and has come out of countless conversations with other stakeholders.

Voters will have an opportunity on March 12 to decide whether it is an initiative that they choose to support with this one-time request for tax dollars, as the Trustees are hopeful they will.

Thank you. Please come out to vote on March 12.

The Rye Public Library is a remarkable town asset with the potential to be even better if we come together to create that opportunity.

**Joe Marttila**– No statement provided

**Joanne Coutu** - Did not attend or provided a statement

## **Library Committee 1 2 years Position: Starts at 52:30**

Library Trustee- 2 year

### **Julie Tucker**

My name is Julie Tucker. I am running for Rye Library Trustee. I have lived in Rye for 25 years with my husband Joe.

My love of reading has made the Rye Library a very important piece of my life. I am a past acting Secretary of Friends of the Rye Library and was also responsible for publicizing the Speaker Series.

While the library holds many important, informative, enjoyable programs and events, we must also remember a key part of the mission statement, “to promote the value of reading”. Additionally, as we move forward technologically, we must not forget the value of access to actual books.

I ask for the opportunity to diligently work to ensure our library stays dedicated to its key mission, provides enriching resources for Rye residents and uses taxpayer funds wisely. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you

Julie Tucker

## **Rachel Bradt McCann**

My name is Rachel Bradt McCann.

I have lived in Rye for most of my life between stints in Montana and New York. I am very proud to be raising my family here.

In 2002, I returned to Rye for good and became the volunteer coordinator at Strawberry Banke Museum. In 2008 I earned my graduate degree in Occupational Therapy from UNH. Until most recently, I was an acute care therapist at Portsmouth Hospital for 15 years.

As an occupational therapist, I think in terms of how an environment can support a person's physical, social and emotional well-being so that they are best positioned to achieve their goals. These terms can include barrier-free and welcoming entrance ways, knowledgeable and approachable staff, inclusive programming, and technology tools that promote access, learning and fun. I believe that our library benefits greatly from this approach. During this first year of being the secretary of the Board, my job has been to listen, clarify and document. I have learned what goes into running a public institution and how it should be an actual open book.

Over this past year I have led efforts to have the life-saving overdose reversal drug Narcan available as well as feminine hygiene products at our library. I am proud of the support that our current Trustee Team provided our excellent library professionals. This support is crucial to promoting and preserving a culture of literacy, research and aesthetic appreciation of our community.

And last but not least, I am also very proud of the work we continue to do towards creating a Library Common that is forward thinking, maintainable and welcoming to all. If elected, I will continue to work diligently with my fellow Trustees to complete this project with fiscal prudence and an attention to transparency.

In conclusion, I respectfully ask for the confidence of your vote on March 12th to continue as a Library Trustee. My parents Ned and Mimi Tate were great supporters of the Rye Public Library and I am looking forward to carrying on their legacy.



Thank you.

## **Planning Board 2 3 year positions Starts at 59:00**

**Peter Moynahan** - No statement provided.

### **John Shaw**

John Shaw – Candidate Statement for Rye Planning Board Election

Hello

I am John Shaw. I am new to Rye, but I am not new to this area. I grew up in New Hampshire and was previously living in North Hampton near the shore, so I am very familiar with the beauty and joy of living near the ocean, as well as the challenges and responsibilities that come along with it. I have a son with a young family who also lives in Rye, and they've made me even more familiar and appreciative of what Rye offers. I love living here.

In North Hampton, I was the Chair of the Little Boar's Head Zoning Board of Adjustment and I became familiar with various land use issues, regulations and procedures. I recently retired from a management career across several tech companies. As an executive, I was constantly gathering different stakeholder inputs, much of it very technical, much of it very legalistic, and then working through it to make a group decision, much like a Planning Board does.

I am impressed with Rye's Master Plan and the current Master Plan update project, and I support that the town's Master Plan rather than any personal agendas must guide our planning vision and principles. We all value and are committed to preserve the natural resources and character of the town, while we also seek appropriate and fiscally responsible ways to accommodate modest growth for the future. As a member of the Planning Board, I would help us make the needed land use decisions effectively, efficiently and fairly.

I ask for your vote and the opportunity to serve. Thank you.

## **Paul Ziolkowski**

My name is Paul Ziolkowski and I am new to Rye, moving here this past fall with my family. I have a bs in management from Johnson and Wales Univ. and have been an independent financial planner for over a decade, managing several hundred million dollars for my clients. I have experience in property development, while also owning and managing rental property. The reason I am running for planning board is due to the fact that the town I just moved from has approved 8, 12, 16, 60, and 400 unit projects over the past 5 years, which has put a tremendous strain on the town resources. After viewing the effects firsthand, I am here to provide a prudent point of view to help move Rye forward, in a responsible way. Please vote for me.

## **Steven Borne**

Most of you should know me from my fifteen years assembling the monthly Rye Civic News. I am attend Select Board meetings, Budget Meetings, and then read through most of the other Town, School and Water District minutes every month. At times I feel as if I am the only one who knows what everyone is doing and why and what happened over the past decade and a half.

When the Planning Board moved from the second Tuesday of the month, to the third Tuesday, the Notice of Decisions or draft minutes were not available at the end of the month for the Civic News. So, I was forced to be watching the three hours of Planning Board meetings. When the Planning Board Chair made a request for more Alternates, as they were done to only one person who could make the meetings, I realized, why don't I just go to the meetings versus watching the video, so I have been a Planning Board Alternate since last year.

I am the only Planning Board Candidate who currently serves on the Planning Board.

To explain the Land Use Regulations we vote on, I have had to attend Rules and Regulations meeting as that has been the only way I can get the background and rational required to provide the explanations in the annual Warrant Article presentation the RCL produces.

I have also been reading, editing and commenting on the Master Plan for more than a dozens years. I am one of a very small group of residents who have been actively providing Master Plan inputs and continually requesting that Rye restructure our Master Plan so that it includes an implementation plan and develops a best in Class Master Plan.

As an Engineer with an MBA, not only can I read drawings and understand all the technical aspects, I get the dollar and cents impacts to all stakeholders.

This experience is essential to helping our current chair Pat Losik. She is a rock star. If you have been to meetings and paid attention you will realize how much preparation and homework she does for every single meeting.

The Board is losing four members this year and she is going to need help. That is why I am offering to step up my commitment and move from Alternate to Member.

## **Supervisor of the Checklist 1 position 6 years Starts at 1:23:30**

### **Sally King**

Opening Statement for Sally King running for reelection as Supervisor of the Checklist:

Thanks to both the Rye Civic League for hosting this event and to Bob Eaton for moderating.

I have served 12 years as Supervisor of the Checklist in Rye, ten of those with mentors Jane Holway and Madeline Chichester, and have been Chair for the past several years. I received a BA in Political Science from UMass and have a lifelong interest in the democratic process and in our political system.

Because we have the accessible option of same day registration in New Hampshire the Supervisors are actively registering new voters on election day. A reward of same day registration is meeting and helping young first-time voters. Their proud parents often accompany them, take pictures while they are registering, and further memorialize the right of passage by taking follow up pictures as they feed their ballots into the machine. Democracy at work!

During my tenure as supervisor, I calculate that I have been involved in twenty-four elections overseeing the checklist, and an additional thirty-five annual meetings collectively of the school board, water district and deliberative sessions. I have spent additional countless hours ensuring town and state voting records are accurate and maintained in accordance with election qualifications. There is no partisanship in this job, we are dedicated to lawfulness and integrity.

Inclusivity is important to democracy and election workers in Rye have been fortunate to work alongside moderator Bob Eaton who for the past 16 years has run our elections with fairness,

integrity and with an emphasis on ensuring that every qualified voter has the right to vote and that every vote is counted accurately. I am proud to be part of the team that has kept elections fair and open.

Supervisor of the checklist is a job that requires commitment, time, and dedication. I have demonstrated these qualities throughout my time as Supervisor. I feel that I have been able to make a valuable contribution to the election process in Rye. I ask for your vote to continue to serve in my capacity as Supervisor of the Checklist. Thank you. Sally King

### **Sue Philbrick**

Thank you for coming this evening. My name is Sue Philbrick and I am running for supervisor of the checklist. I am fortunate to have purchased a home in Rye just over a year ago. I want to become more active in my community. I worked as Supervisor of the Checklist in Newington for several years. I take voting very seriously. I consider it an honor and privilege, one I don't take for granted. I feel everyone should have the right to vote, once the necessary requirements have been satisfied. I will work hard to fulfill the duties of the Supervisor of the Checklist. I am excited about the prospect of working for the residents of Rye. And would greatly appreciate your vote on Tuesday. Thank you for your time and attention.

### **Select Board 1 seat 3 year Starts at 1:38**

#### **Tom King**

I'd like to thank the Rye Civic League and everyone who helped arrange this forum, especially our moderator, Bob Eaton

I grew up in a military family and attended the US Air Force Academy. After a 22-year career I retired and became an airline pilot which allowed Sally and me the flexibility to settle near family here in Rye. Once I retired as an airline captain I ran for the Select Board and I've been privileged to serve since 2021.

During my tenure,

I have prioritized clean water, working to clean up the Parson's Creek watershed and with the Water District on exploring new wells

Learning from the pandemic, I pushed for the creation of an Emergency Management Reserve Fund, providing funding for repairs after recent damaging storms.

We prioritized public safety staffing and equipment and renegotiated all three union contracts last year to retain good people.

Road crew staffing was also increased for more robust plowing, paving and storm response. The results of this investment in our people and equipment were on full display in the recent storms.

I pushed for Rye to become a founding member of Community Power, putting over \$260,000 back in your pocket through electricity savings.

We encouraged town entities to actively look for grants and in the last few years, we have received over \$2 million dollars.

I remain actively involved with the TAP grant that will add sidewalks and bike lanes to our town center and connect the middle school, the library common and our new teen center, making Rye center safer for our children.

We have done all this while keeping the municipal tax rate the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest of 221 towns in the entire state.

My 44 years of flying along with leading men and women in military operations have taught me how to lead, when to listen, and how to solve problems. Experience, leadership and perspective are what I bring to this position.

I am honored to serve and I ask for your vote to continue this important work- thank you

### **Rob Wright**

Hello, I'm Rob Wright, I've called Rye home for the past 33 years, and I'm a candidate for Select Board. Reflecting on my family's deep roots in the New Hampshire Seacoast, where my ancestors lived since the 1600's, fills me with a sense of belonging. When my wife of 45 years,

Lori, and I were finally able to make NH our full -time home in 1991, it was a dream come true. I still can't drive up the Spaulding Turnpike without thinking of vacations long ago at my aunt and uncle's camp on the Piscataqua - the smell of the pines and the salt air always put me in a happy place.

While we ultimately chose Rye for its ocean access, good schools, and low taxes when raising our two young children, I now question the state of our town's governance. My decision to run for office stems from my belief that we can improve the management of our fiscal and environmental resources.

In December, all of us received a tax bill that was 30% higher than we expected, which was a noticeable dent in all of our personal budgets. Sadly, this didn't need to happen. For many years, the Select Board have frequently dipped into the "Undesignated Fund" to avoid raising the tax rate. The NH DRA recommends that Towns keep between 5 and 17% in that fund, specifically for unanticipated emergencies. My opponent has characterized it as "working capital" not a rainy-day fund. While it's true that we do have capital reserves, they are not always sufficient to pay for large, unexpected events – like a hundred-year storm and a bridge failure. When the fund is used to keep taxes artificially low, the taxpayers see no consequences for their spending and therefore fail to scrutinize costs when casting their ballots. In essence, they vote for something that should add \$.30 per thousand to their tax bill, but the Board then offsets those costs with money from the fund balance so the taxpayer feels no consequence of the vote. We need to care for our Town infrastructure, our roads, buildings and equipment.

We can best do this by taking modest increases in taxes each year to cover inflation, and keep up with negotiated wage and salary agreements of Town Employees. Characterizing an artificially lowered tax rate as "returning money to the citizens" is not only self-serving, it belies the very core of responsible leadership; good leaders don't deliver shocking surprises, they plan and execute well. I believe that my experience leading the two major land use sub-committees will provide a useful background to be a good steward and leader, and I ask that you vote for me next Tuesday, March 12th. Thank you. Rob Wright Rye, NH