



Outlook

AGENDA ITEM Corresp.

DATE: 7/27/20

For Public Record & Board Correspondence

From Kate Jordan Stelner <[REDACTED]>

Date Wed 7/15/2026 12:52 PM

To emcquade@town.rye.nh.us <emcquade@town.rye.nh.us>; Suzanne Barton <sbarton@town.rye.nh.us>; hkalet@town.rye.nh <hkalet@town.rye.nh>; John Tuttle <jtuttle@town.rye.nh.us>; Rob Wright <rwright@town.rye.nh.us>

Cc Matt Scruton <mscruton@town.rye.nh.us>; lLenahan@usatodayco.com <lLenahan@usatodayco.com>; emaher@dtclawyers.com <emaher@dtclawyers.com>

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Dear Board of Selectmen,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the hostile environment created by Chair Rob Wright and RCC Commissioner Shawn Joyce at the 7/13 BOS meeting. The Chair failed to follow Rules of Procedure and facilitated an intimidating and hostile public meeting.

Per current Board Rules of Procedure (ROP), "Speakers may express themselves in any manner they please, with the caveat that they address the Board as an entity through the Chair and comply with reasonable rules of order, relevance, time, and decorum." Rye Conservation Commission Chair Shawn Joyce repeatedly failed to speak to Boardmembers through the Chair, which Chair Wright permitted. Additionally, Mr Joyce repeatedly failed to follow basic decorum including interrupting, pointing at, and raising his voice toward Boardmembers.

- Around 41:40, Mr Joyce begins pointing at, interrupting, and using a raised voice with Selectboard Barton. Mr Joyce fails to address Selectboard Barton through the Chair.
- Around 43:35, Mr Joyce begins questioning Selectboard Tuttle; again, not through the Chair. Chair Wright fails to stop Mr Joyce, and when Selectboard Barton attempts, Mr Joyce again begins pointing, shouting, and interrupting Selectboard Barton.
- Around 46:00, Mr Joyce interrupts Selectboard Barton during internal discussion and begins pointing at her and putting his hand in her face, again not through the Chair.
- Around 48:45, Mr Joyce interrupts SelectboardTuttle, again not through the Chair.

Board Chair Wright's conduct in the 7/13 meeting failed to follow ROP direction that "internal discussions will be polite, respectful, and that speakers may not engage in threats, harassment, defamatory statements, or conduct that disrupts the orderly conduct of the meeting."

- Around 51:30, Selectboard Barton inquires about method of selecting written correspondence included in the Board packet. Neither the Town Administrator or Selectboard Wright is able to provide a method used, and as the conversation continues Selectboard Wright begins avoiding

eye contact, reading while Selectboard Barton is speaking, and speaking dismissively to Selectboard Barton

- Around 56:05, Selectboard Barton indicates she would like to include communication in Selectboard Wright's proposed motion to send communication to the Governor, Selectboard Wright tells her, "no you're not" rather than clarifying if she is requesting to amend the motion.

Chair Wright's treatment of Selectboard Barton in particular is unprofessional and hostile, contributing to the appearance of sexism as he repeatedly speaks more dismissively to the sole female Boardmember than he speaks to the rest of his male Board. This behavior enables and encourages others, such as Mr Joyce, to follow suit in what appears to be harassment of a Boardmember.

Chair Wright does not appear to have control of himself, the Board, or appointed commissioner Joyce. Selectman Barton appears to need more training in Board procedures. I hope that Chair Wright, his Board, and Mr Joyce receive and implement proper training in Board decorum and procedures before the 7/29 Town Deliberation, so our town can enjoy a respectful public discourse that focuses on the matters at hand.

In partnership,
Kate Steiner