RYE PUBLIC LIBRARY
New Hampshire

2027-2031 "CIP Light" Narrative

2026: Retrospective (Completed)
In 2026, the Rye Public Library (RPL) executed two coordinated projects: (1) replacing the heating, ventilating, and cooling systems dating back to 1998; and (2) stabilizing damaged structural areas in the rear of the building.

2027: Planning
We are committed to being good stewards of the Library Building and the Library Common. For 2027, the RPL will re-engage in strategic planning activity and a space needs assessment to ensure future projects align with community needs. Concurrently, we will build the reserves of our Expendable Building Maintenance Fund (91-1030-99-015). Seeking a $50,000 warrant article to bring the balance to just over $100,000 will provide funding for upcoming projects.

2028: Roof Replacement
For 2028, the RPL anticipates replacement of the roof, as the materials from the 1999 renovation reach the end of their lifecycle. Timely replacement prevents water infiltration and safeguards interior finishes, technology, and collections. The previous estimate of $51,750 should be updated to reflect current roofing material costs.

2029: Window Replacement
For 2029, the RPL will redesign historic windows and replace the windows in the 1999 addition. This project builds on the 2026 HVAC upgrades and completes the recommendations of an earlier Town energy audit, lowering utility costs. The cost estimate of $124,775 from an earlier CIP needs to be updated to reflect current material and specialized historic preservation costs.

2030: Parking Area Improvements
For 2030, the RPL will undertake parking area improvements, including lot resurfacing, upgrading light poles to LED fixtures, and installing an EV charging station. The transition to LED will reduce consumption and enhance site safety. The previous project estimate of $66,125 (broken down as $34,500 for repaving/striping; $28,750 for LED light poles; and $2,875 for the EV charger) should be revised to match current market rates.

2031: Interior Painting and Carpeting

Finally, for 2031, the RPL anticipates a multifaceted carpeting and painting project to address significant wear from high community volume. Due to the complexity of moving and temporarily storing collections and fixtures, this budget includes logistical assistance to minimize library downtime. The previous estimate of $218,850 requires updating.

While comprehensive renovation is a possibility during this CIP cycle, the timeline is uncertain. Should a renovation project move forward, overlapping items will be integrated into that budget to prevent duplicate funding. In the interim, these requests must remain active to prevent facility deterioration.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Licks
for the Rye Public Library Board of Trustees
October 23, 2026