

**TOWN OF RYE SELECT BOARD  
MEETING**

**Monday, December 11, 2023, 5:30 p.m.  
Rye Town Hall & Via Zoom**

**Select Board Present:** *Chair Tom King, Vice-Chair Bill Epperson, and Selectman Bob McGrath*

**Others Present:** *Town Administrator Matt Scruton, and Asst. Town Administrator/Finance Director Becky Bergeron*

**5:30 p.m.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair King called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

**II. NON-PUBLIC SESSION (1) per RSA 91-A:3, II (d) Acquisition**

**At 5:31 p.m., Tom King made a motion to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II (d) Acquisition. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Roll Call: Epperson – Yes, McGrath - Yes, King -Yes.**

**At 6:41 p.m., Tom King made a motion to come out of Non-Public Session. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Roll Call: Epperson – Yes, McGrath – Yes, King - Yes.**

**6:30 p.m. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING**

**III. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair King reconvened the meeting at 6:45 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A.** The Town Offices will be closed on Monday, December 25, 2023 for the Christmas Holiday.
- B.** Author Dennis Robinson will be speaking as part of the Rye 400 events on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Rye Public Library.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENT** – (at the beginning of the meeting, for any comment by any Rye resident on any topic. Requested time limit, up to 5 minutes each person.)

**Police Chief Kevin Walsh** spoke to the Select Board about the concerns in the community with regard to people not abiding by the speed limits while driving throughout Rye. He submitted information to the Board about other communities' programs that have been used in those towns successfully to address this issue. Chief Walsh reviewed the ideas used in other communities and gave feedback on those programs.

**Hugh Lee, 220 Pioneer Road**, presented a proposed warrant article, along with a memorandum outlining the procedure, to address and correct the boundary errors between the Town Forest and the Cemetery. He requested that the warrant article be included on the 2024 Town Warrant.

**Mary-Ann Sullivan, 754 Central Road**, expressed her concerns with the speed of vehicles travelling through Rye and requested more enforcement of the speed limits in town.

**Michael Bean, 112 Grove Road**, spoke in support of the petition that was signed to uphold the current speed limits in Rye.

**Roger Wiegley, 633 Central Road**, spoke in regards to the petitioned warrant article that will be submitted for the 2024 Town Warrant, which will ask voters to vote on reducing the speed limit from 35 mph to 30 mph on town roads where it is currently 35 mph. He referred to NH RSA 265:60, which sets the prima facie speed limit. Under this law, the speed limit in an urban residence district is supposed to be 30 mph. He believes that all the roads in Rye are within an urban residence district. There may have been a time when speed limit was set at 35 mph on roads that were not within an urban residence district because the population density was lower at that time. However, he believes that today, all roads fall within the definition. Therefore, all roads, under the State prima facie limits (RSA 265:60), should be 30 mph. He asked that the Board consider this when considering what is safe and unsafe. He also asked that the Board consider what state law requires.

**Joe Cummins, 990 Washington Road**, spoke in regard to the Junkins property, which is a conservation parcel located at 0 Pioneer Road. He believes that conservation land, except where precluded by law, is always intertwined with recreational opportunities. He encouraged the Board to continue with this idea, as he would like to see some recreational opportunities at the Junkins property. He also spoke about the possibility of dissolving the Budget Committee, as there has been tension on the committee over the past few years.

**Steven Borne, 431 Wallis Road**, spoke in regard to improving communications amongst the Budget Committee, which the committee has been working on. He also gave comments on the speed limits in town and encouraged the Board to make decisions that are common sense.

**Sam Winebaum, 52 Cable Road**, spoke about his concerns with the speeding issues in Rye. He supports a lower speed limit on roads throughout the community, and encourages more warnings

and tickets at lower limits. He suggested forming a traffic safety and speed limit committee to look at this issue in a more global and formal fashion.

## **VI. AGENDA ITEMS**

### **A. PUBLIC HEARING – MONUMENTS**

The purpose of the hearing is to hear public comment on acceptance of a founder's monument valued at fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) and a Rye 400 monument valued at thirteen thousand three hundred fifty dollars (\$13,350) both being donated to the Town.

At 7:22 p.m., Chair King opened the public hearing.

Vice-Chair Epperson noted that the Select Board has discussed the monuments at numerous meetings. He thinks the donations are very generous initiatives to commemorate the founding families of the Town and also to commemorate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He doesn't have any issues with the monuments.

Selectman McGrath agreed.

Chair King opened to the public for comments.

**Alex Herlihy, 55 Lang Road**, commented on the list of names that will be on the monument as the founding families of Rye, along with the ability to add names to the stone if needed. He also spoke about a way to acknowledge the indigenous people of that time.

It was confirmed that the stone can accommodate additional names and two have actually been added to the list since the original proposal.

**Steven Borne, 431 Wallis Road**, commented that he has never had a problem with acknowledging the founders. He always had a problem with the way it was justified and presented in public. If this is accepted, he would like the Select Board to do something in kind for the indigenous people who were here for thousands of years and did such a good job of taking care of the land.

**Joe Cummins, 990 Washington Road**, commented that the Town should accept the monument and take a few years to enjoy it before taking up the noble cause of recognizing other historical events.

Hearing no further comments, Chair King closed the public portion of the hearing at 7:31 p.m.

Referring to the idea of a third monument, Chair King pointed out that idea can be entertained in the future; however, the Board is having a hard enough time finding a place for these two monuments, at this time.

**Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the Founder's Monument with an estimated donor value of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000). Seconded by Bob McGrath. Vote: 3-0**

**Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the Rye 400 Monument with an estimated donor value of thirteen thousand three hundred fifty dollars (\$13,350). Seconded by Tom King. Vote: 3-0**

## **B. Rye Community Power Update**

**Howard Kalet, Energy Committee Co-Chair**, met with the Select Board to give an update on Rye Community Power with regard to its upcoming rate setting process for the period of February 1<sup>st</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>. The Rye Energy Committee anticipates that the Granite Basic rate, which is the default rate for Community Power, will remain lower than the Eversource default rate. The Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) Board of Directors will meet on December 28<sup>th</sup> to set rates, which is the final date to set rates. Rates are required to be published by January 2<sup>nd</sup> to give the public an opportunity to opt out. Information on rates and a detailed report on the numbers of customers, along with savings, will be presented at a Select Board meeting in January.

**C. Event Application** – Mary Ann Sullivan requests permission to gather signatures at the Transfer Station on Saturday, 12/16/2023, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Mary-Ann Sullivan, 754 Central Road**, requested permission to gather signatures at the Transfer Station on December 16<sup>th</sup> for the petitioned warrant article being presented at town vote to reduce the speed limit on roads that have a limit of 35 mph to 30 mph.

**DPW Director Jason Rucker** did not have an issue with the request. He asked that safety be the most prevalent consideration with signatures being collected out of the working zone near the highway garage.

Selectman McGrath feels that this could be a disruptive event, as there are clearly two sides of the issue. He wants to note that if this request is approved, the other side can also have their chance at that location, as well. He asked that the event not be disruptive.

Ms. Sullivan confirmed that there is no intention for the event to be disruptive.

**Town Administrator Matt Scruton** noted that the content of the petition is irrelevant as to whether or not the request is approved. The Transfer Station has traditionally been used as a public forum for free speech. The Select Board needs to be sure they are looking at this application just to make sure the date and time won't conflict with any operations at the Transfer Station, not the actual content of what's being petitioned.

Chair King pointed out that the Select Board maintains approval authority over any materials that are distributed at the Transfer Station.

**Motion by Bob McGrath to accept the event application for December 16, 2023, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., for Mary-Ann Sullivan's organization to collect signatures to support reducing a speed limit to 30 from 35 miles per hour. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.**

**Note:** *The Select Board agreed to address the Library's warrant article out of posted agenda order.*

Members of the Rye Library Board of Trustees met with the Select Board to present the Library's warrant articles for the 2024 Town Vote.

**ARTICLE C:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$20,000.00) to be added to the Rye Public Library HVAC Capital Reserve Fund established by Article 12 at the 2016 Town meeting under the provisions of RSA 35:1, for the purpose of replacing the Rye Public Library's aging and inefficient current heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. This appropriation is in addition to the Library's operating budget. (Majority vote required.)

The current system in the Library is a twenty-five year old system and repairs are not possible, as parts are not readily available. This fund was set up in anticipation of having to replace the system in the future. However, the Library will probably need to do the replacement within the next two years and putting funds into this account will help to cover those costs. The balance in this fund is approximately \$78,000 and this will bring the fund to just under \$100,000.

**Motion by Bill Epperson to recommend Article C as written. Seconded by Tom King. Vote: 3-0**

**ARTICLE B:** To see if the Town will raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed one hundred and sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000) towards improvements to the Library Common, a public space in the Town Center adjacent to the Rye Public Library which shall supplement private donations and other non-appropriated funds, including prior donations, to be used for the project. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. This article is non-lapsing until December 31, 2026 or until the project is complete, whichever comes first. (Majority vote required).

The intent of the Library is to create a functional, welcoming space in the Town Center. The Library Trustees have been working with a landscape architect to create a plan for the space. The idea is to have a performance space that can be used for library programming and informal gatherings. In addition, the plan is to have two or three seating areas, along with a terrace area with tables where people can gather and create a sense of community. The Library would also like to have stone work along the front of the property, which is consistent to what is seen throughout Rye. At this time, the focus will be on the performance spaces on the Library Common. It's anticipated that the project can be done for \$500,000 and the Library is seeking support from the taxpayers for about a third of that cost. The Library is committed to using existing donated funds and continue with broad-based fundraising to make up the difference.

Selectman McGrath and Selectman Epperson expressed their concerns on the timing of this warrant article, as there have been a lot of concerns from taxpayers about the tax rate.

It was explained by the Library Trustees that they are not asking the Town to cover the whole cost. The Library plans to engage in an aggressive fundraising effort to create the project in full as envisioned. At this time, the Library has unrestricted funds from donations in the amount of \$235,000.; however, not all of those funds would be used towards this project. The Library Trustees spoke about the residents' interest in doing something with this parcel and wanting to have a gathering space in the Town Center.

There was some discussion about the importance of involving the Historic District Commission and having a discussion with them about the plans.

Chair King spoke about the importance of funding the arts and other endeavors in town; other than police, fire, and DPW.

Selectman McGrath commented that he thinks this is a great project and people will like it. The problem is that a lot of people budget up close and personal and not over a ten-year period. This year, there was a fifteen percent increase; actually, thirty percent up front. For that fact alone, he's voting no.

**Motion by Bill Epperson to recommend Article B to see if the Town will raise and appropriate a sum not to exceed one hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000). Seconded by Tom King. Vote: 2-1 Opposed: Bob McGrath**

#### **D. HDC expansion of district to include town green**

**David Choate, Historic District Commission Member**, along with **Kaitlyn Coffey, Chair of the Historic District Commission**, met with the Select Board to discuss the possible expansion of the Historic District to include the Town Green, which is the piece of land in front of the cemetery. It was noted by Mr. Choate that the HDC has applied for a CLG Grant to recreate the Historic District information and to look at the expansion of the District. There are seven properties being considered along Central Road, starting at 1 Central and down to 59 Central. The HDC would like the Town Green to be considered for inclusion into the District, as it seems it would be a logical extension of the Historic District. The HDC is asking the Select Board to allow the Town Green to be part of the District, with the caveat of having town counsel research the deed to be sure there are no restrictions from preventing this from happening.

Mr. Choate noted that the Rules and Regulations Committee voted to move the expansion of the District to the Planning Board on December 19<sup>th</sup>. They will then schedule a public hearing and it will go to the Deliberative Session after that time.

Mr. Choate spoke about the benefits of putting the parcel into the Historic District. There was also some discussion about the area of land that the HDC is intending to be included. After

discussion, the Select Board agreed that more research is needed through town counsel with regard to the deed. The Select Board will take the request under advisement.

There was some discussion with Kaitlyn Coffey about the proposed location of the monuments, which is the parcel near Walker Lane, and whether that will be an acceptable temporary location. Mrs. Coffey noted that some members of the HDC are not comfortable with that location and expressed concerns that the monuments will end up there long-term. It was agreed that HDC should discuss this at their next meeting and report back to the Select Board.

#### **E. Rye Community Engagement Committee**

Selectman McGrath spoke about the idea of creating a committee that would collaborate on redesigning the beach signs into one unit. In addition, it would also create some language for the Town's website for town visitors with regard to regulations. The other goal would be to do everything in a welcoming tone.

The Select Board agreed to the idea of forming a Community Engagement Committee.

#### **F. Chief Cotreau – new Ambulance Proposal**

*Tabled*

#### **G. Chief Cotreau – Demo Pumper Proposal**

Fire Chief Mark Cotreau submitted the agreement for the demo pumper for the Select Board to review. He confirmed that the contract has been vetted and approved by Attorney Maher.

**Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the proposal and authorize the Town Administrator to sign the contract for the E-ONE Typhoon Pumper for \$789,000. Seconded by Tom King. Vote: 3-0**

#### **H. Chief Cotreau – Requests acceptance of a 1997 Seadoo & trailer being donated for training purposes**

Chief Cotreau requested the acceptance of a 1997 Seadoo and trailer for the Fire Department, which will be used for personnel training. It was noted that the donation is less than \$10,000., so a public hearing is not necessary.

**Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the 1997 Seadoo and trailer being donated for training purposes with a value of \$1,500. Seconded by Bob McGrath. Vote: 3-0**

#### **I. Chief Walsh – Request to add no camping/overnight parking to the Parking Ordinance**

Police Chief Kevin Walsh presented his request to add no camping/overnight parking to the Parking Ordinance. This is being proposed to address issues with people sleeping in tents on

town property, people camping on the beach at night, and RV's/busses being parked overnight on the streets. The addition would include vehicles parked on public ways overnight. There is an exception for fishermen in the ordinance that already exists, and there are no changes proposed for that section. Chief Walsh pointed out that the Town has a memorandum of agreement (MOU) with NH State Parks that is good until 2024. He has been working on language to address this change in the MOU for the renewal.

The Select Board reviewed the proposed changes to the ordinance and discussed what the unintended consequences may be with Chief Walsh. After discussion, it was agreed to have Attorney Flynn and Attorney Maher review the proposal and make any necessary changes, as needed, with the proposal coming back before the Select Board.

## **VII. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **A. Petition signed by 65 Rye residents to uphold current speed limits in town.**

*It was noted that a letter from Roger Wiegley was also received, along with another letter from 15 additional Rye residents. Letters and petitions have been received for both sides of the issue and have been taken under advisement by the Select Board.*

### **B. Letter rec'd from Daane Crook re: a thank you to Transfer Station employees**

*The Select Board received a letter from Mr. Crook expressing his praise and happiness with the service from the staff at the Transfer Station. The Selectmen asked that a copy of the letter be provided to DPW Director Jason Rucker for him to share with his staff. They thanked Mr. Crook for his letter.*

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

*None*

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

*None*

## **X. SELECTMEN'S 2024 BUDGET WORK SESSION**

### **A. Departmental Budget**

<b><u>Legal: 4153-04</u></b>	<b><u>\$179,778</u></b>
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Finance Director Becky Bergeron noted that the information on the proposed 2024 Coalition Community contribution has been received, which is \$11,778 for Rye's share. This is more than the \$5,070 that was originally requested. She asked the Select Board to consider increasing the legal budget. The budget for legal would need to be increased by \$6,708 to cover the total cost of the contribution.

It was explained by Chair King that the Coalition Community is a group of towns that have organized to contest the return of the donor town tax for the Statewide Educational Property Tax



(SWEPT). Towns involved in the organization all pitch in a certain amount to maintain the ongoing legal efforts.

Administrator Scruton explained that one of the reasons the contribution has increased is because of the court decision where the court ordered that any SWEPT Funds generated by a community which exceeds the amount of adequacy aid statutorily entitled, must be remitted back to the Department of Revenue Administration (DRA). The group will be appealing this decision and more funds for this effort will be needed. The Coalition Community is comprised of a number of donor communities who will be appealing to the NH Supreme Court.

**Motion by Tom King to add \$6,708 to the coalition contribution line item resulting in a total legal budget of \$179,778. Seconded by Bob McGrath. Vote: 3-0**

**Town Custodial: 4194-02** **\$167,280**

Finance Director Bergeron explained that the Budget Committee made changes to the custodial budget and voted to reduce the contracted services line item from \$40,000 to \$12,000.

It was explained by DPW Director Rucker that the Budget Committee made this reduction in the budget because they don't feel it's warranted to have funds available in the event that an employee will quit or retire. He noted that it will be very hard to replace the current custodian at the current pay rate with the workload that exists.

There was some discussion with DPW Director Rucker about how this reduction will affect the Town's custodial services, if the current town custodian retires. Finance Director Bergeron expressed her concerns that the reduction in funds will not allow for a significant amount of time for services to be covered. Chair King pointed out that the Budget Committee has the final say in recommendations to the residents with regard to the budget, not the Select Board.

**Motion by Tom King to amend the Government Buildings Town Custodian contracted services line item from \$40,000 to \$12,000 resulting in a final budget of \$167,280. Seconded by Bob McGrath. Vote: 3-0**

**Solid Waste: 4324-34** **\$350,000**

Finance Director Bergeron noted that the Budget Committee reduced the solid waste budget from \$370,600 to \$350,000 with the amount coming out of the tipping fees.

DPW Director Rucker pointed out that tipping fees are contracted and the budget is based on projected usage. He feels that the concern of the Budget Committee is that this line item is not sufficiently spent by budget season. They see a large sum remaining even though there are bills still coming in for tipping fees for the end of the year. He also pointed out that it's DPW's strategy to not overspend in this line item at the beginning of the year and catch up at the end of the year. He is hoping to make this work for next year's budget.

**Motion by Tom King to reduce tipping fees for the Transfer Station Solid Waste Disposal Budget from \$243,750 to \$223,150 for a total of \$350,000. Seconded by Bob McGrath. Vote: 3-0**

## **B. Warrant Articles**

**ARTICLE A.** To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the Grove Road Landfill Capital Reserve Fund established by Article 11 at the 1994 Town Meeting to the Landfill Monitoring Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of monitoring all landfills in the Town and to designate the Select Board as agents to expend and to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand (\$10,000) to be placed in this fund. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget. (2/3 vote required).

**Motion by Bob McGrath to recommend Article A as written. Seconded by Tom King.  
Vote: 3-0**

**ARTICLE D.** To see if the Town will vote to discontinue the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Expendable Trust Fund established by Article 12 of the 2022 Town Meeting. Said funds with accumulated interest to date of withdrawal are to be transferred to the town's general fund. (Majority vote required).

**Motion by Tom King to recommend Article D as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson.  
Vote: 3-0**

**ARTICLE E.** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$1,400,000) for the purpose of engineering, oversight, and construction of the Public Works fuel island, said some to include engineering services for construction, administration, and inspection of the project; and authorize the borrowing of one million four hundred thousand dollars (\$1,400,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Mutual Finance Act NH RSA Chapter 33 as amended; and to authorize the Selectmen to issue, negotiate sum, and deliver such bonds or notes to determine the rate of interest thereon and maturity and other terms thereof, and to make such actions or to pass any vote relative thereto, as may be necessary to effect the issuance, negotiations, sale, and delivery of such bonds or notes that shall be in the best interest of the Town of Rye; and further, to apply for, obtain, accept, and expend several federal and state grants or other aids and any private donations that may be available towards the purpose of this and to comply with the laws applicable to said project. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.  
(3/5 ballot required)

*The Select Board agreed to table discussion on this warrant article to a future meeting to allow time for a detailed discussion.*

**Motion by Tom King to table Article E. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Vote: 3-0**

**C. Encumbrances**

- Contracts and orders that have been placed in 2023 that will not be completed and/or delivered, and paid, until 2024.
  - General Fund Encumbrances - \$137,989.62
  - Sewer Encumbrances - \$86,170.64

**Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the encumbrances for the 2023 General Fund for the total of \$137,989.62. Seconded by Bob McGrath. Vote: 3-0**

**Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the total Sewer Encumbrances for 2023 in the amount of \$86,170.64. Seconded by Bob McGrath. Vote: 3-0**

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Select Board Representative Updates**

*Tabled*

**B. Meeting Minutes**

**1. Meeting, Thursday, November 2, 2023, 8:30 a.m., Rye Town Hall**

*Tabled*

**C. Gift Policy – Personnel Policy Section 5**

The Select Board reviewed the proposed draft gift policy, which will be in place until the policy can be looked at more comprehensively by Town Counsel as part of the rewrite of the Town's personnel manual.

**Motion by Tom King to make the changes temporarily to the personnel policy. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Tom King to adjourn at 10:20 p.m. Seconded by Bob McGrath. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F Ledger

12-11-23 Corres. A

*[Handwritten signature]*

**Uphold our Current Speed limits**

The Town of Rye New Hampshire currently enjoys no significant issue with speeding on its roads.

Rye residents enjoy safety on our roads due in part to a dedicated group of town officials and police officers ensuring the necessary actions to keep us safe are being met. Police data shows a steady decline in accidents over the last five years and success in the practices put in place, which includes the continuation of the "Road Replacement Plan" reducing travel lanes from 12 feet to 10 feet wide, digital signs to identify speed zones, and a sufficient number of varying patrol areas throughout the town. (Please see attached memo dated Oct 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from Police Chief, Kevin Walsh presented to the Rye Selectman).

This petition is to recognize that reasons to reduce 35 mile per hour speed limits to 30 miles per hour on Rye roads are unfounded and the proposed changes unwarranted.

Please sign this petition:

If you wish to maintain our current (appropriate) speed limits and are satisfied with the current efforts of our Rye Police traffic enforcement.

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>
1)	FRANK DRAKE	5 SOUTH RD	<i>[Signature]</i>
2)	TIM HORNE	41 STRAWS PT.	<i>[Signature]</i>
3)	GRETA ST. GERMAIN	875 WASHINGTON RD	<i>[Signature]</i>
4)	Jennifer Madden	620 Central Rd	<i>[Signature]</i>
5)	John F Webb	350 Sagemore Rd	<i>[Signature]</i>
6)	Richard Yanus	387 WALLIS Rd	<i>[Signature]</i>
7)	Mari-Jo Yanus	387 Wallis Rd	<i>[Signature]</i>
8)	Soo Rye Yoo	395 Wallis Rd	<i>[Signature]</i>
9)	Gail Hughes	6 Acorn Acres	<i>[Signature]</i>
10)	Joan Treiney	7 Acorn Acres	<i>[Signature]</i>
11)	William Carney	604 Wallis Rd	<i>[Signature]</i>
12)	Kevin Szmyd	41 Harborview Drive	<i>[Signature]</i>
13)	Frances Erlebacher	484 Brackett Rd	<i>[Signature]</i>

Uphold our Current Speed limits

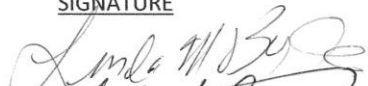
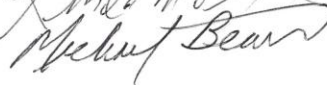
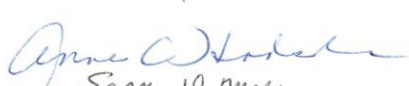
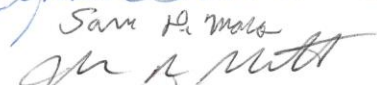
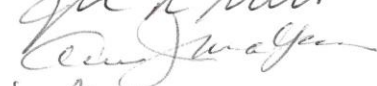
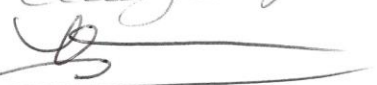








The Town of Rye New Hampshire currently enjoys no significant issue with speeding on its roads.

Rye residents enjoy safety on our roads due in part to a dedicated group of town officials and police officers ensuring the necessary actions to keep us safe are being met. Police data shows a steady decline in accidents over the last five years and success in the practices put in place, which includes the continuation of the "Road Replacement Plan" reducing travel lanes from 12 feet to 10 feet wide, digital signs to identify speed zones, and a sufficient number of varying patrol areas throughout the town. (Please see attached memo dated Oct 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from Police Chief, Kevin Walsh presented to the Rye Selectman).

This petition is to recognize that reasons to reduce 35 mile per hour speed limits to 30 miles per hour on Rye roads are unfounded and the proposed changes unwarranted.

Please sign this petition:

If you wish to maintain our current (appropriate) speed limits and are satisfied with the current efforts of our Rye Police traffic enforcement.

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>
1)	Linda Boyle	110 Grove Rd	
2)	MICHAEL BEAN	112 Grove Rd	
3)	Anne C Hodsdon	99 Smith Road	
4)	SAM DEMARCO	961 WASHINGTON RD	
5)	JOE MANTILA	96 Alchson ST	
6)	Ann Malpas	20 Tanglewood Ave	
7)	Kate Catalano	264 Brackett Rd	
8)	CHAD CONRAD	264 Brackett	
9)	Deni Lipman	484 BRACKETT - DENI LIPMAN	
10)	SHAWN JOLKE	270 WASHINGTON RD	
11)	Lynne Joyce	270 Washington Rd	
12)	Julie Tucker	960 Washington	
13)	DEL RECORD	240 GROVE RD	
14)	JOE TUCKER	960 Washington Rd	

Uphold our Current Speed limits





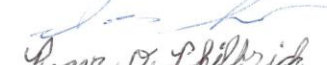



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	NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
1)	GHALEB KAROUNI	113 GROVE ROAD	
2)	Brian Wade	101 Grove Road	
3)	Annie Wade	101 Grove Road	
4)	GLENN SUCHOCKI	50 COLBOURN RD	
5)	Scott Suchocki	50 Colbourn Rd	
6)	Roger O. Philbrick	111 GARLAND Rd.	
7)	Susan Record	260 Grove Rd	
8)	Zachariah Wapner	120 Garland Rd	
9)			
10)			
11)			
12)			
13)			
14)			

Continued:

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>
13)	KarWe Kline	870 Central Rd Rye Beach NH 03871	
14)	Davis Kline	870 Central Rd Rye Beach NH, 03871	
15)	Addison Kline	870 Central Rd Rye Beach	Addison Kline
16)			
16)			
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**Uphold our Current Speed limits**

The Town of Rye New Hampshire currently enjoys no significant issue with speeding on its roads.

Rye residents enjoy safety on our roads due in part to a dedicated group of town officials and police officers ensuring the necessary actions to keep us safe are being met. Police data shows a steady decline in accidents over the last five years and success in the practices put in place, which includes the continuation of the "Road Replacement Plan" reducing travel lanes from 12 feet to 10 feet wide, digital signs to identify speed zones, and a sufficient number of varying patrol areas throughout the town. (Please see attached memo dated Oct 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from Police Chief, Kevin Walsh presented to the Rye Selectman).

This petition is to recognize that reasons to reduce 35 mile per hour speed limits to 30 miles per hour on Rye roads are unfounded and the proposed changes unwarranted.

Please sign this petition:

If you wish to maintain our current (appropriate) speed limits and are satisfied with the current efforts of our Rye Police traffic enforcement.

NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
1) Erin Kelley	34 Hunter's Run	Erin Kelley
2) Chase Kelley	755 Washington Rd.	Chase Kelley
3) Ashley Gallant	10 Hunter's Run	Ashley Gallant
4) JOE GALLANT	10 Hunter's Run	Joe Gallant
5) Elbert Kelley	34 Hunter's Run	Elbert Kelley
6) Laura Carroll	10 Fern Ave	Laura Carroll
7) April Carroll	10 Fern Ave	April Carroll
8) Jeffrey J. Carroll	10 Fern Ave	Jeffrey J. Carroll
9) PAT MURRAY	1104 GORM BLVD	Pat Murray
10) Jeff Church	51 Pollock Dr. Rye, NH	Jeff Church
11) Renee Carroll	51 Pollock Dr. Rye	Renee Carroll
12) David Kline	870 Central Rd Rye Beach	David Kline



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	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>
1)	Annitt M Sanderson	491 Brackett Rd	Annitt M Sanderson
2)	Lisa Mulcahy	4 Patriots Way	Lisa Mulcahy
3)			
4)			
5)			
6)			
7)			
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12)			
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14)			

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<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>
1) Holly Cook	33 Hunters Run Rye	Holly Cook
2) Tim Cook	33 Hunters Run, Rye	Tim Cook
3) Kimberly Munson	755 Washington Rd.	Kim Munson
4) Lois Swan	659 Washington Rd.	Lois Swan
5) Jaynee Whitney	40 Hunters Run	Jayne Whitney
6) Richard Whitney	40 Hunters Run	Richard Whitney
7)		
8)		
9)		
10)		
11)		
12)		

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	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>
1)	Joanne Coutu	20 Causeway Rd.	Joanne Coutu
2)	Andrew Coutu	20 Causeway Rd.	Andrew Coutu
3)	MICHAEL COUTU	20 CAUSEWAY ROAD	Michael G. Coutu
4)	Jeannette Lindsay	10 Causeway Rd	Jeannette Lindsay
5)	TIM LINDSKY	10 Causeway Rd	Tim Lindsay
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**Uphold our Current Speed limits**

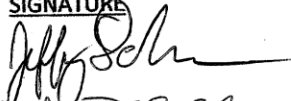

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	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>SIGNATURE</u>
1)	Jeffrey DeRosa	22 Hunters Run	
2)	Kate DeRosa	22 Hunters Run	
3)			
4)			
5)			
6)			
7)			
8)			
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12)			

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Please sign this petition:

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	NAME	ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
1)	Pamela Tucker	4 South Rd	Pamela Tucker
2)	John Tucker	4 South Rd	John Tucker
3)	Madison Tucker	4 South Rd	Madison Tucker
4)	David Paulin	96 Pioneer Rd	David Paulin
5)	Coleen Penacho	1182 Ocean Blvd #1	Coleen Penacho
6)	JOHN PENACHO	1182 OCEAN BLVD #1	John Penacho
7)	Casey Penacho	1182 Ocean Blvd #1	Casey Penacho
8)	Dylan Keller-Adelman	4 South Rd	Dylan Keller-Adelman
9)	Michelle Moreau	5 South Rd	Michelle Moreau
10)	Roland Brewer	595 Long John Rd	Roland Brewer
11)	Susan Predaris	325 Wallis Rd	Susan Predaris
12)	CJ Bogert	171 Locke Rd	CJ Bogert
13)	Joe Zelman	7 E. Atlantic Ave	Joe Zelman
14)	Angie TORRES	7 E. Atlantic Ave	Angie Torres
15)	Gabe DiSaverio	65 Brackett Rd	Gabe DiSaverio



## RYE POLICE DEPARTMENT

555 Washington Road Rye, New Hampshire 03870



Kevin Walsh  
Chief of Police  
www.ryepolice.us

Non-Emergency: (603) 964-5522  
Business: (603) 964-7450  
Fax: (603) 964-7458

To: Rye Select Board  
From: Chief Kevin Walsh *KW*  
Date: October 25, 2023  
Re: Rye Driver Compliance Plan Validates Rye Roads are Safe

The Rye Select Board's number one priority continues to be safety. I have been a department head for 16 years, and every Board prioritizes safety in every town department. Examples of commitment from current and previous Select Boards include Dow Lane @ Washington Road and Route 1 infrastructure changes, and Perkins Road @ Ocean Blvd infrastructure changes to improve vehicle and pedestrian flow. Each year the Rye Highway Director has a road replacement list. As part of the replacement plan, the Select Board requires the travel lanes are reduced from 12 feet to 10 feet wide, yellow line to white line. Road projects follow the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, best practice standards. Rye Select Boards community decisions made yesterday and now will affect the lives of everyone in the community for years to come.

The Rye driver compliance plan is to promote and implement objectives and strategies to match safety standards to reduce vehicle crashes.

The Rye driver compliance action plan:

1. **Education/Awareness-** public campaigns, social media posts/ community meetings/ project of yard signs with Portsmouth High School students, social media posts, partnering with N.H. Highway Safety Department, participating in webinars hosted by the National Center for Rural Road Safety, current member of Speed Management Group State of NH DOT. Community letters have been disseminated by social media, and delivered to private country clubs, churches. The purpose is to make members and employees as well as get help from church leaders and supervisors of employees about poor driving behavior.
2. **Engineering-** policy decisions by Select Board using the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for streets and Highways, the purpose of the MUTCD is to help ensure traffic control devices used throughout Rye meet the needs of all road users, including the most vulnerable, in a safe and efficient manner, and matching budget limits each year. Each road in Rye has a sign review. This project is ongoing. Rye Highway Department and Police Department use the MUTCD to meet all best standards all drivers have been trained to know.
3. **Enforcement-** Rye citizens communicating safety concerns, officers set up patrol areas each patrol shift. Using a digital sign to delineate the speed zone to drivers, rotating the digital sign to ensure the digital sign does not go overlooked. Using the Jamar traffic counter to retrieve data of date and time of frequent speed violations. Supervisors use data to place stationary radar patrols. Rye police apply each year to NH Highway Safety to help fund extra enforcement patrols. The patrols are coordinated with State Police, Rockingham County Sheriff Department, North Hampton, Newcastle, Portsmouth, Greenland police departments to be proactive to enforce seacoast poor driving behavior.

**Town of Rye motor vehicle accidents has reduced the last 5 years.**

Accident reports for the entire Town of Rye filed with the Department of Motor Vehicles, (accident reports reported to be over \$1,000.00 worth of damage).

- o Year 2018 – 104
- o Year 2019 – 83
- o Year 2020 – 76
- o Year 2021 – 75
- o Year 2022 – 67 From 01/01/2022 to 10/23/2022 58 accidents
- o Year 2023 – 51 From 01/01/2023 to 10/23/2023, 51 accidents, lower compared same time period in 2022

In comparison to previous years, traffic accidents have significantly decreased. Data collected from the Jamar traffic counter showed the average speed declined on Central Road and Lang Road. The high visible patrols, confronting violating drivers by stopping them shortly after the violation is observed is proven to be highly effective. Reinforcing the data collected, in 2019, 3 traffic accidents were reported on Lang Road. So far in 2023, 1 traffic accident has been reported on Lang Road. In September, Rye Highway finished the Lang Road re-surface, road striping, signage project. The Town wide success with the Rye driver compliance plan is achieving similar positive safety outcomes on all Rye roads.

Neighboring communities have made infrastructure changes. The MUTCD does not recommend these changes. The unintended consequences are budget increases, while the changes do not produce safety results.

Traffic enforcement is an essential component of the driver compliance plan. Even with all the education and engineering related elements in place, driver compliance needs to be disciplined with the objective to prevent similar behavior in the future. Enforcement is a corrective method applied after a registered violation by issuing the driver a fine for driving at an unreasonable speed. All the penalties cause a specific deterrence since a driver runs a risk of being directly disciplined and will refrain from violating traffic laws. Seeing the enforcement activities on the roads, PR campaigns, community letters, the digital sign in strategic various locations and traffic data from the Jamar traffic counter, used for high visible patrols financially supported by the Office of Highway Safety Grants has a preventive effect on the driving public. This is part of the driver compliance plan. The Rye community has been responding positively to the driver compliance plan.

Ensuring Rye roads stay safe requires a culture that places safety first. As well as support in the road system decisions made by the Select Board, Budget Committee, and department heads.

Cc: Town Administrator Matt Scruton  
Assistant Town Administrator Becky Bergeron  
Rye Highway Director Jason Rucker  
Rye Fire Chief Mark Cotreau  
Rye police officers

12-11-23 Corres. B

December 7, 2023

Board of Selectmen  
Town of Rye  
Town Hall  
Rye, NH 03870

Dear Selectmen,

I have read the recent public exchange regarding the experience of a Rye resident at the Town transfer station last week whereby that person arrived before closing but was not permitted to discharge all her trash and recycling.

I agree that this resident should have been permitted to deposit all her trash and items for recycling as she was at the transfer station before closing time. I thus agree with the Selectman's public comment on this matter.

However, I feel that this resident poorly handled this matter by going immediately to public venting of her frustration. In my opinion, this public venting created a veneer of a non-caring attitude by transfer station employees toward serving the public, a veneer that directly contradicts my 15+ year experience with the folks who work there. Over this entire time period, I have found these employees to always be very helpful, knowledgeable and caring, and they go out of their way to be of assistance. Personally, I have nothing but high praise for their conduct and public service, a service that GREATLY benefits the Rye community. I have heard many complaints about transfer station services in nearby towns over the years. In contrast, I feel that Rye has the best transfer station in the seacoast area and this should be publicly recognized and applauded.

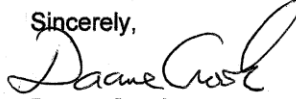
I wish that this resident had instead contacted the manager of the transfer station to explain what happened and request resolution. If that effort was not satisfactory to her, she could have contacted one of the Selectmen for advice and assistance. Going public blew this way out of proportion and in my opinion created an unfair dark cloud over the transfer station and its excellent staff.



So, I just want to express to you my great respect and thanks to the transfer station staff for all their help to me over the years. Handling a community's trash and recycling is to my thinking often a thankless task even though this is a vital public serviced to the community and I think it is time to publicly recognize the importance of this work to the Rye community and to thank the staff for all the fine work they do.

Thank you for this opprtunity to offer my thoughts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daane Crook", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Daane Crook

288 Wallis Road

Rye, NH 03870

cell: daanecrook7@hotmail.com