

TOWN OF RYE – SELECT BOARD
Monday, May 10, 2021
6:00 p.m. – Via Zoom

Present: Chair Phil Winslow, Selectman Bill Epperson and Selectwoman Mae Bradshaw

Others Present: Town Administrator Becky Bergeron

6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Winslow called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**II. NON-PUBLIC SESSION (1) per RSA 91-A:3, II (a) Personnel
(2) per RSA 91-A:3, II (b) Hiring**

At 6:00 p.m., Phil Winslow made a motion to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Roll Call: Winslow – Yes, Epperson – Yes, Bradshaw - Yes.

At 6:07 p.m., Phil Winslow made a motion to come out of Non-Public Session. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Roll Call: Winslow – Yes, Epperson – Yes, Bradshaw - Yes.

At 6:08 p.m., Phil Winslow made a motion to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Roll Call: Winslow – Yes, Epperson – Yes, Bradshaw - Yes.

At 6:47 p.m., Bill Epperson made a motion to come out of Non-Public Session. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. Roll Call: Winslow – Yes, Epperson – Yes, Bradshaw - Yes.

6:30 p.m. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING

III. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Winslow called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance.

Reading of Attestation

Statement by Becky Bergeron

As Town Administrator of the Town of Rye, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

- a) providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video and other electronic means. We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone number: 646-558-8656 with meeting ID# 820 7334 2147 and Password: 675135 or by clicking on the following website address: www.zoom.com ID #820 7334 2147 and password 675135.
- b) Public notice has been provided to the public for the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the Town of Rye website town.rye.nh.us Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access. If anyone has a problem e-mail Becky Bergeron at bbergeron@town.rye.nh.us.
- c.) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.
In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Roll call attendance of Select Board:

- Mae Bradshaw – Alone
- Bill Epperson – Wife is in the house
- Phil Winslow – Wife is in the house

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Winslow announced that the Rye Select Board has entered into a purchase and sales agreement to sell the Old Trolley Barn. He read as follows:

The Select Board has entered into a purchase and sale agreement to sell the Old Trolley Barn at 37 Central Road for the price of \$411,000 to Mr. Bruce Valley, a Rye native and current Rye resident. Mr. Valley has indicated that he intends to renovate the current building on the premises and open a high-end coffee and donut café with drive through capability.

The Select Board was authorized to sell the Trolley Barn per the 2018 Town Warrant which was voted in by an 84% plurality. The Select Board chose to sell the parcel via a closed bid process that saved having to pay realtor fees or the buyer paying an auction fee.

The Town also authorized the Select Board (per warrant article #9 of the 2020 Town Election) to set up a Municipal Buildings Construction and Renovation Capital Reserve Fund and to place \$280,000 from the sale of the Trolley Barn into this fund. It further authorizes the Select Board to use the \$280,000 from this fund to renovate the newly acquired old TD Bank building at 500 Washington Road for use as town offices. A true moment for celebration for the Town of Rye, its citizens and its staff.

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.)

- **Mike Garvan, Clerk of the Conservation Commission**, spoke about ‘Consent Agenda Item D’. He explained that Mr. Joyce’s and Mr. Tilton’s correspondence not being a part of the Conservation Commission’s public record was a clerical error on his part. He stated that Mr. Joyce had emailed him and asked that it be attached and he forgot to do it. However, Mr. Garvan did bring up Mr. Joyce’s and Mr. Tilton’s concerns to the Commission and the Commission did have a full discussion on their concerns. That discussion was duly noted in the minutes, so the public will get a sense of their concerns and the Conservation Commission’s responds to those concerns. Mr. Garvan apologized for the original correspondence not being attached.
- **Katharine Brown, 541 Washington Road**, spoke about two letters that she has written regarding the traffic in town. She has been doing traffic counts and has made the information available to the Town Center Committee. The Rye Town Center Committee has come up with some great ideas for the Town Center, but if the traffic is not addressed, they will never have a town center atmosphere that they are envisioning. She stated that three simple 30 mph signs would help solve the problem.
- **Mark Joseph, 540 Washington Road**, confirmed what Ms. Brown had said and added that the traffic and the noise is becoming unbearable. He asked that the Select Board address the situation. Also, Mr. Joseph reported that he took his grandson to the platform in Parsons Field and found that it was in total disrepair with missing boards, etc. It is really dangerous and needs attention.

- **Steven Borne, 431 Wallis Road**, thanked Lee Arthur for the phenomenal time that his family has had over the years with Rye Recreation. He stressed that it was all due to Lee's efforts.

Mr. Borne announced that the Rye Water District is having their annual meeting at the Rye Junior High on Saturday May 22nd at 10:00 a.m. He reported that the Water District Budget is 1.7 million and just above the police, as one of the biggest expenses in town. School, Town Government, Fire, Safety and Public Works are the ones that are higher.

Mr. Borne stressed that with all the changes in town, there is a need to raise money to do the Master Plan right. He pointed out that other towns spend up to \$100,000 on their master plans and Rye is talking about spending \$8,000.

Mr. Borne spoke in favor of allowing the Rye PTA and Common Roots to use Parsons Field for yoga and meditation programming.

Mr. Borne stated that this is an important time, with Lee Arthur stepping down, to review Rye Recreation to see how important it is to Rye's aging community. He asked if Rye Recreation needs more visibility. Should Rye Recreation manage the beach issues, like other seacoast towns, not the Select Board?

VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS – (to be discussed at the meeting only if pulled off the consent agenda by one of the three Selectmen.)

- A. Letter rec'd from Robert Wylde re: Dredging the Harbor
- B. Letter from Lee Arthur re: Her resignation as Recreation Director
- C. Email/article from Dominique Winebaum re: the 1978 Conservation Master Plan and the 1982 Sounding Board Master Plan.
- D. Email from Shawn Joyce & Dave Tilton re: Their correspondence not being a part of the Conservation Commission public record.
- E. Recycling Education Committee – 1 year term ending 4/01/22
 - 1. Alex Herlihy: Appointment as a member – email rec'd 4/23/21
 - 2. Recommendation letter rec'd 4/28/21 from Joan Provencher, member
- F. Dennis McCarthy, Public Worker Director – Bid Results
 - 1. Beach Rubbish Collection
 - 2. Paving Services

Chair Winslow asked that Consent Agenda Items B, C, D and F be taken off for discussion.

Motion to accept Consent Agenda Items A and E as presented. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

**Roll Call Vote: Mae Bradshaw – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Phil Winslow – Aye.
Motion Passed.**

B. Letter from Lee Arthur re: Her resignation as Recreation Director.

Chair Winslow stated that Lee has been with the Town of Rye 21 years as of May 11th. He thanked her for all her superior work. He asked that a letter of thanks be sent to her; however, the Select Board will also be hosting an event for her.

C. Email/article from Dominique Winebaum re: the 1978 Conservation Master Plan and the 1982 Sounding Board Master Plan.

Selectman Epperson stated that this commission has been formed and Dominique has graciously agreed to be on it. The Planning Board is now tasked with looking at the Master Plan and coming up with a plan to do a visioning session. Selectman Epperson stated that he is looking forward to seeing the results. He is really encouraged by the amount of effort that is going into it. Steve Carter is the Chair and Selectman Epperson feels that Mr. Carter has a good handle on it.

D. Email from Shawn Joyce & Dave Tilton re: Their correspondence not being a part of the Conservation Commission public record.

Note: See Mike Garvan's comments in Public Comments.

F. Dennis McCarthy, Public Worker Director – Bid Results
1. Beach Rubbish Collection
2. Paving Services

Public Works Director McCarthy stated that rubbish collection was about \$7,250 last year and is \$7,600 this year.

Mr. McCarthy reported that he will be awarding the paving services to the low bidder based on getting satisfactory recommendations.

No vote is needed, as the lowest bidder is being chosen.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Rye Water District – Drought conditions and possible conservation options

Town Administrator Bergeron explained that the Town acted on the drought conditions at the end of last year and due to the continual dry conditions and water levels, Rye Water District has decided to be more proactive this year. Tonight's discussion will be on:

1. When to impose the restrictions
2. How to notify the public

3. How the restrictions are going to be structured
4. Enforcement actions

The Select Board has the authority under RSA 41:11-d to impose these restrictions.

Town Administrator Bergeron reported that Aquarion Water was asked to attend this meeting, but was unable to attend. However, Brian Goetz, Deputy Director of Portsmouth Public Works Department, is in attendance. Also in attendance are Water District Commissioners Ralph Hickson, Art Ditto, and Tom Clifford, as well as Rye Water District Superintendent Arik Jones.

Arik Jones, Rye Water District Superintendent, led the discussion. He reported that as of June of last year, they were in drought conditions and have not moved away from that. Presently, they are at abnormally dry conditions with part of the State in moderate drought. The District is already compromised due to one well being shut down because of its high content of iron and manganese. Superintendent Jones also reported that since the Covid stay at home order there has been a 10%-12% monthly increase on demand of water usage. Due to these stated reasons, Superintendent Jones recommended that they look at the moderate drought level, as a starting point for the consideration of implementation of restrictions on a voluntary basis with mandatory following. He pointed out that it is not just about clean, safe, drinking water but also about providing adequate water for fire protection. The optimal time to do irrigation is from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. However, the downside to that is it puts a huge demand on the system and in some cases, it puts the tanks into the negative. Last year, there were times when all three wells were on to keep up with the demand. If a fire were to happen, they would definitely be in a deficit and not be able to supply enough water.

Chair Winslow pointed out that whatever requirements they put into place would not be just for the Rye Water District but would also be for Aquarion and private wells.

Selectman Epperson asked why they would want to wait until the moderate drought levels to require some restrictions. He noted that at the moderate drought level it states “limit all outside watering from 8am to 6 pm” and “limit watering to every other day”. Why not be proactive and start that now?

Selectwoman Bradshaw agreed.

Superintendent Jones stated that there is no reason not to and it would be a significant help. He added that the goal is to reduce the water usage, as well as, to reduce the demand at certain points in time. If they implement every other day usage, there would be a recharge time, which would benefit the wells by giving them a higher tank level. He suggested an odd/even schedule for irrigation. Even number days, even numbered houses could irrigate and odd days, odd numbered houses irrigate. This disburses the amount of usage over a period of time and reduces the demand.

Chair Winslow asked if RSA 41 covers abnormally dry. Do they have to wait until they reach moderate drought levels?

Town Administrator Bergeron stated that abnormally dry is listed as one of the categories of a drought. D0 Abnormally Dry to D4 Exception Drought.

Chair Winslow asked that she contact town counsel for clarification. Secondly, he asked about enforcement. What would be the mechanism and who would be responsible for the enforcement?

Superintendent Jones reported that in the District's written by-laws, they don't have any language to give them the authority to fine the home owners. The only means of enforcement is to shut down the service. He doesn't see the police department trying to enforce this. It would be the Water District enforcing it thru shut-downs.

Selectman Epperson stated if Rye has a well-informed population, 75% to 80% of the people will go along with it. There will always be that 20% that don't. If there is that kind of cooperation to save this valuable resource, hopefully it will work.

There was further discussion regarding enforcement. **Brian Goetz from the City of Portsmouth** stated that they had the same experience with the 2016 drought as in 2020. During the 2016 drought, they put odd/even restrictions on in mid-summer and then in late September they went to mandatory essential water usage. Their ordinance does not permit excessive water use or waste of water. They have a couple of staff members driving around neighborhoods. Where water usage is obvious, they will put a notice on the door. With a lot of people, it is just an information thing and they might not have known about the restrictions. Also, some people have an automatic irrigation system and they don't know how to shut it off or program it. Most people want to comply. So, it's a matter of connecting with the irrigation company. Sometimes the water department staff can follow up and help them out. A second notice will go out to the residents that are still not in compliance. This notice states that the resident has been notified and made aware of the restrictions. Any further violation will require their water to be shut off. Mr. Goetz pointed out that they rarely get to the point of shut off. He also stated that the police and fire departments notify them of violations and they also get calls with anonymous tips from neighbors. He also explained that a lot of residents with irrigation systems have irrigation meters. They can monitor the irrigation systems from the department's radio read meter system data.

Superintendent Jones reported that he talked to Carl McMann at Aquarion Water and Mr. McMann mimics what Mr. Goetz has said regarding enforcement.

The Select Board agreed that the outline of criteria as laid out by Superintendent Jones is right on. However, Selectman Epperson felt that they should be more proactive and start a voluntary odd/even system before they are in a moderate drought.

Chair Winslow stated that if they can agree on the enforcement the major issue will be education.

It was agreed that information will go out to the residents by social media and on the Town's website. A postcard will also be mailed. They would use the odd/even system and it would be voluntary for now. If they have to go to a mandatory restriction, the criteria would stay the same

as to not confuse the residents. This will be sent to all residents including Aquarion customers and private well owners.

Town Administrator Bergeron will reach out to Town counsel in regards to this issue.

Water Commissioner Tom Clifford referred to the N.H. DES Environmental Services' sample for water restrictions for public water systems. He noted that it lays out the steps to restricting water use. It follows the guidelines that have been discussed. He recommended crafting the legislation around that document.

Chair Winslow asked Town Administrator Bergeron and Superintendent Jones to follow-up on finalizing the plan and the Select Board will address the issue at their next meeting on May 24th or the first meeting in June to vote on it.

B. Chief Walsh – 2021 Beach Permit Application

1. Summer Sessions Surf Shop

Chief Walsh reported that Summer Sessions will be holding their kids camp this summer with reduced participation. There will be 15 participants with 5 instructors. The location will be at Sawyers Beach, from June 15th through September 1st. Classes are from 9:30 to 11:30 and from 12:00 to 2:00 pm.

Ladies' Night: the location will be next to the Brown Cottages (the first two - three cottages just north of the Eel Pond pipe). The dates will be from June 15th through October 15th. Wednesday nights 5:30 to 6:30 and from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Participants will be a maximum of 25 with 8 instructors.

Soup Yoga: Location is at Rye Harbor or Bass Beach depending on the tides. June 1st through October 10th; Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 7:00 am to 8:30 pm and 6:30 to 7:30 pm. Maximum participants 15 with 1 instructor.

Lessons: Location is at the Brown Cottages. May 15th through October 15th. Monday through Sunday. Maximum participants 15 per hour. No more than 5 group lessons per hour with a maximum of 3 participants per group. 1 instructor of each group of 3.

Youth Night: Location is at the Brown Cottages. June 1st through October 1st. Tuesdays 5:00 to 6:00 pm. Maximum participants 20 with 6 instructors. There will be no games on the beach at high-tide.

98% of the activities for the camps and lessons will be in the water. Lunch will be held on the rocks.

Chief Walsh reviewed additional requirements: Beginning warm up exercises must take place away from beach patrons. Stay close to the water on busy days. Continue with the traffic plan established in 2018. The business owner will be responsible for having a traffic manager at the

location. A waiver signed by each borrower, renter or participant to be retained by Summer Sessions.

Chief Walsh noted that the insurance is still due at this time. This has to be in place prior to any activities by Summer Sessions.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to approve the Summer Sessions permit application subject to the Summer 2021 conditions as outlined in Chief Walsh's letter of May 10th, also subject to Summer Sessions having insurance in place prior to any activities.

Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Roll Call Vote: Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw – Aye; Phil Winslow – Aye.

Motion Passed.

C. Application for Parsons Field Use: Rye PTA in partnership with Common Roots, LLC. requests to hold yoga and meditation programming, Thursdays, 5/13/21 – 9/30/21, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

Robin Wehbe, owner of Common Roots, and Claire Spollen, member of the Rye PTA, presented.

Mr. Wehbe explained that 100% of the proceeds from this program will be going to the Rye PTA fund raiser and will be provided as a weekly Rye community service. It is designed to provide mind and body health exercises on Thursday afternoons. Parsons Field would provide a great outdoor space, close to the school. People will be able to walk there.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to approve the Rye PTA, in partnership with Common Roots, permit application to use the Parsons Field for yoga and meditation, which will meet on Thursdays from 4:00 to 5:30 pm, from May 13th through September 30th, subject to satisfactory insurance coverage as determined by Chief Walsh. Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Roll Call Vote: Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw – Aye; Phil Winslow – Aye.

Motion Passed.

D. Recreation Director Job Description

Recreation Director Arthur explained that the job description as presented was updated in 2012 when the position was put on grade. There are a few minor additional changes that are outlined in the document that is being presented at this meeting.

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the Recreation Director Job Description as presented. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call Vote: Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw – Aye; Phil Winslow – Aye.

Motion Passed.

E. Rye Town Center Committee – Areas of Safety Concerns

Selectwoman Bradshaw thanked Police Chief Walsh for attending the last Town Center Committee meeting and expressing his opinions. Chief Walsh has concerns about making any changes to the Town Center in terms of signage, crosswalks and three-way stops until he completes his studies. She knows that the Town Center Committee is frustrated at the fact that they can't really move forward with the vision of the Town Center being safe for bikers, pedestrians and a place where people congregate, if the traffic problem is not stopped. The only way that can be done is if different things are tried; for instance, Katherine Brown's three signs putting the speed limit at 30 mph, which is what it is now. However, the Town Center Committee really believes the traffic needs to be slowed to 25 mph in the center of town or there will never be the vision that was expressed in the Plan N.H. Meetings and has been talked about with the Town Center Committee for the past two years. She commented that working on the TAP Grant is wonderful, but at best that is going to be three years before all of that can come to fruition.

Selectwoman Bradshaw continued that she shares the Town Center Committee's view that they cannot wait for studies. The Committee does not believe that studies deal with the issue that they are dealing with, which is not just about safety but also building a community in the center of the town. The studies don't deal with the crux of what the Town Center Committee is dealing with; which is, until the traffic is slowed down, people are not going to want to walk, cross the street or congregate in that area. Now that there is the wonderful library space available and being worked on, it is even more important to have it be a walking community without trucks and cars driving through at 40 mph. She completely supports what the Town Center Committee is requesting. She does not support waiting, as the Chief has recommended, for some studies he is working on. She does not think the studies will accomplish what they are looking to accomplish.

Selectman Epperson commented that posting speed limit signs at 25 mph is really not going to make a difference. He does not know if that would have a long-term effect on traffic speed. The only thing that he can think of that would truly have an impact on traffic would be speed tables. He pointed out that those are being used in Portsmouth and they don't look to be very expensive.

Chair Winslow stated that what Katherine Brown is suggesting is not to change the speed limit but to post the speed limit that is there now. People coming into town don't really know what the speed limit is in that area.

Selectman Epperson replied that Selectwoman Bradshaw has suggested lowering the speed limit.

Selectwoman Bradshaw clarified that the Town Center Committee would like to have the speed limit reduced in the area between the Rye Junior High and the turn near the Town Hall and Washington Road.

Chair Winslow asked Chief Walsh to give his thoughts.

Police Chief Kevin Walsh cautioned the Board that what is done for one must be done for all. The Town Center Committee has mentioned safety over and over again; however, so do the

residents of Dow Lane, South Road, Central and Perkins. Residents on all the roads in Rye state the same safety concerns. If the Board chooses to put in speed tables, three-way stop signs and change the speed limit, they must do this for all roads. He noted that the Board asked him to come up with a plan. He and the officers have come up with a 'Driver Compliance Plan'. With that plan, the 85th percentile is going to be used to determine why a speed limit should be set at a certain speed. This is how the State of N.H. traffic engineers base traffic speeds. They also refer to accident statistics. He noted that at the intersection of Wallis and Brackett Road, where a three-way stop sign was proposed because of the number of traffic accidents, an analysis was done by two engineers. Some signage adjustments were done based on the 'Uniform Traffic Control Signage Manual' and there has been some success. He reiterated that the Board must stand in a position that if a sign is going to be put up to make someone feel safe, it should be done everywhere. Or, the Board should have a plan in place that is supported by data and statistics. The Board should have a set formula as to why a speed limit is set.

Chief Walsh pointed out that he has nineteen years of accident history for the center of town. He is disappointed that over that time there has been one bicycle accident and one pedestrian accident, as he feels it should be at zero. However, in looking at the overall statistics for the past nineteen years, the Town has done very well. He takes the words from the Town's Highway Director, Dennis McCarthy; "Should the Town continue to review and look at things to make it safer in the center of town? Absolutely." Chief Walsh continued that one of his suggestions is the sidewalk that starts at the Library and goes across the public safety complex. The designers of that building saw into the future by putting that sidewalk there and it should be continued to Rye Junior High, where crosswalks are already set up for Parsons Field. There were a lot of people in the past that have set up the community to go in that direction. He thinks the sidewalk needs to be completed, as it would make things safer.

Chair Winslow commented that the concerns of the Town Center Committee are that the funds to do that won't be available until 2022, if the Town is lucky enough to get the TAP Grant. He continued that one of the things that was done on Dow Lane was the setup of the electronic sign, which substantially reduced the speeding along that road. He asked if this could be done in the center of town.

Referring to Dow Lane, Chief Walsh noted there was also a lot of review of the roadway. Lines were put in at the intersection of Route 1, along with bollards. Also, the highway department reconfigured the intersection of Dow Lane and Washington Road to narrow the width, so people would not be making an improper turn. He continued that the Board's history has always been to analyze the facts as to why a change should be made. He thinks everyone is on the same page and that is to make things safer. They just need to get the steps in place. He reiterated that if the Board adds signs just to add them, without any facts, it is going to have to be done for all the roads. He commented that as long as a car is made that drives over 30 mph, the department has to work hard at getting voluntary compliance to drive that speed, which is done through education, awareness and enforcement.

Selectman Epperson asked if different striping on the road would help.

Public Works Director Dennis McCarthy stated that 10ft lanes are the minimum for the roads. The roads are at 11ft lanes right now. Because the shoulders are so wide, they don't have the same effect at slowing traffic as the narrower roads. The Town's roads have configurations that are safe for 35 to 40 mph. He continued that the concept for the Town Center Committee was to come up with a walkable, safe, destination center. That is going to be done with construction and physical changes to the downtown. It is not going to be by changing speed limits and adding nuisance stop signs to slow people down. He thinks this is just going to upset the public. He thinks they should maintain the course they have. Or, if the time frame does not fit, approach the community to have them fund the physical changes; such as, the sidewalks, dedicated bike lanes and narrowing of the traffic lanes. All the publications on traffic flow and traffic protection show that it is not done with signs. Speed is not controlled with stop signs. A safe road that has been designed for 35 to 40 mph traffic cannot be reduced by putting up signs for 30 or 25 mph. All that can be done is to enforce the speed limit. What will happen is that everyone driving that road would be violating the speed limit. The only way to change that is to have the Police Department constantly enforcing the limit.

Karen Stewart, Town Center Committee Chair, stated that the committee's letter of recommendations definitely included some signage. The Committee didn't suggest 20 or 25 mph, but they did ask for a lower speed limit to be considered. There were some other things that were proposed that the Committee would like to have the Select Board, Mr. McCarthy and Chief Walsh review. She continued that the Committee is working from the Plan N.H. Charette data and findings. The input of the community, in regards to their feelings about the Town Center, was that the priority is the safety of the roadway. The Committee is taking that key input from the Town. She thinks that is important to recognize. This is not about a group of neighbors saying "slow down". This is a committee that has been appointed by the Select Board to review those findings and make recommendations. She continued that the Committee has submitted a construction plan to the State that will narrow the width of the travel lanes. If the Committee is awarded that grant, the Town will not get the money until 2022. The results of that work will not actually be seen until 2025. In the interim, the Committee was hoping to increase both the safety and the perception of safety in the Town Center for the parents of school children, who may or may not be biking to school because the parents are nervous about them being on the roadways; for the Town's employees to potentially walk from the new town clerk's office to the other municipal buildings in town; and for the folks who are travelling to and from Parsons Field to meditate or the Parsonage lot for library functions. She reiterated that the Committee would like to see the speed limit looked at more closely, as 30 mph feels fast and a lot of people drive consistently with some mileage over. The Committee would also like to see that intersection looked at. The right turn lane is a problem. Could that be removed? She pointed out that it was put in as a test and without a traffic engineering study. The Committee would like to have the width of Central Road, near the Town Hall going into Washington Road, looked at by the Select Board and Chief Walsh. The neighbors in that area and others in town find that to be a very scary turn for anyone in the roadway who is not a motorist.

Ms. Stewart noted that it is not just the speed limit. There was a series of recommendations that were being made by the Committee. They are intended to increase safety and also the perceptions of safety that many, many people in town voiced as things that need to be improved in the Town Center.

Chief Walsh noted that from April 15th to May 3rd, the average speed near 580 Washington Road was 29 mph and the 85th percentile was 33 mph. The Town Center Committee is saying that 30 mph is too fast, but there is nothing fact based to support that, as far as accidents and information from the electronic speed device. He suggested that a traffic engineer should analyze the center of town. Some of the things that are being asked are going to require years of maintenance and the Select Board, along with the Budget Committee, are going to need information to support why it is being done and why the changes were made.

Speaking to Ms. Stewart's comment about the Committee dealing with the perception of safety, Mr. McCarthy stated the reality is that it is safe. The numbers, statistics and speeds that are constantly reviewed show that the area is safe. He asked why they are dealing with the perceptions of safety and trying to throw things into the mix that none of the guidebooks recommend. He reiterated that the physical changes are what the Committee should be concentrating on, not the perceptions of safety.

Ms. Stewart noted that the physical changes that are being proposed would in fact narrow the travel lanes. There is data that suggests that narrowing the travel lanes will slow the vehicle down.

Mr. McCarthy replied he completely agrees; however, that is a physical change. He explained that the white lines can be moved in another foot on each side, but it will not have the effect it has on other roads because there is still all that open width on both sides. It's a very wide right-of-way, which makes it very safe. It is straight, wide and open with a lot of sight vision. Anyone who is out there can be seen.

Selectwoman Bradshaw suggested hashing the curve in the area where the foot is moved in from. There is an area coming around from the Town Hall that is a big wide space where people come around the corner not expecting to see anyone in the road. She commented that it really shouldn't be a road because it is too wide in that spot. She asked if there is a way to make it very clear that it is not be driven on.

Mr. McCarthy asked if people really drive in that area since there is a fog line.

Selectwoman Bradshaw confirmed.

Mr. McCarthy commented that the asphalt could be cut back. It could be made narrower and it can be lined. However, will this be dealing with the issue or just dealing with the perception of the issue?

Selectwoman Bradshaw stated the perception of the issue is part of what the Town Center Committee was created for.

Mr. McCarthy replied that he understands. The Committee has a good plan, but they are not following the plan because they are frustrated that it is going to be three years out. He believes they are trying to meet the objectives without the physical and hardscape that are required.

Ms. Stewart commented that she does not think the Committee is frustrated. She thinks it is more that they want to see what could be done right now, knowing that even if they are awarded the TAP Grant, they have a long way to go. There is anecdotal evidence of plenty of people saying they don't let their children bike on the road to school because they are worried about them, as people are going maybe the posted speed limit but also probably faster. There are photographs showing the traffic congestion in the afternoons and the children walking next to cars.

Selectman Epperson suggested taking this offline and having a small number of representatives from the Town Center Committee meet with the Chief and Mr. McCarthy to try to come to some agreement.

Selectwoman Bradshaw agreed this is a good idea.

Chief Walsh reiterated that every street in town has come to him over the past twenty-six years with the exact same conversation. What the Select Board does for one, they must do for all.

Selectwoman Bradshaw stated that she disagrees. This is the center of town. There has been a planning session of 200 people who all said the same thing. They would love to use the center of town as a place to walk and meet. That is what the Committee is working towards. It can't be done if it is a super highway. The roads are as wide as a super highway. They have to find something that can be done between now and when the TAP Grant is implemented to fix the issues. The Committee is suggesting maybe some signs, or maybe a three-way stop. Let's try some things over the next couple of years to see if any of that contributes to the safety of children riding their bikes or walking. She commented that other neighborhoods don't have children walking back and forth all day long.

Selectman Epperson stated that each one of these situations stand on their own. What is done for the center of town does not have to be done to Brackett Road, for example. He thinks that putting some heads together to come up with some ideas might help. However, the decisions are not going to be made tonight.

Chair Winslow stated they already have some suggestions that Mr. McCarthy is supportive of. One is to restrict the travel lane from 11' to 10'. The other is some additional striping on the corner of Washington Road. He agrees that there should be a separate meeting of the parties involved to see what can be done. He appreciates what Chief Walsh is saying. They went through this similar situation on Dow Lane and it went on for almost a year. However, they did come up with some solutions that significantly helped. He thinks they could probably do something here on a temporary basis to help. He asked Town Administrator Bergeron to set up a meeting for the parties involved before the end of May.

Mr. McCarthy commented that his department will do whatever the Select Board wants them to do, whether he agrees or not. He just feels it is important, when it goes against the engineering, that this is brought up to the Board.

Chair Winslow replied that this is what the Select Board is asking. The Town's employees are the professionals and they should tell the Select Board what they think. The Board will look at all aspects and come back with a decision.

Chief Walsh echoed Mr. McCarthy's statement. He just feels that he is setting the Select Board up in a poor position if they don't consistently analyze safety in a logical manner in how they come to these conclusions. The perception is not a good way to analyze something to come to these conclusions because signs and things will have to be put up all over town, which he does not feel is responsible. He will present the best case and they can move forward together.

Chair Winslow asked the cost of a traffic study.

Chief Walsh replied that he believes it is about \$6,000 to \$8,000.

Chair Winslow asked Chief Walsh to look into the possibility of a traffic study.

Selectman Epperson stated that the hardscape is going to change after the TAP Grant, if they get the award.

Ms. Stewart noted that the hardscape won't necessarily change on the Central Road curve. Speaking to Chief Walsh, she asked if he had said that five weeks were needed for his own study. She thinks they may want to wait for that study to be conducted.

Chief Walsh explained they have just completed the traffic tally at 580 Washington Road. They will now be going on the other side to get the traffic going up the hill. He is in the middle of reviewing the signs that are on Washington Road and that will be completed with the Highway Foreman. He is also going to look at Lang Road where it connects to Washington Road. Also, he is going to tap into some resources with the State in regards to similar intersections.

Town Administrator Bergeron agreed to set up a meeting with the involved parties to further discuss this issue. The members are to include Karen Stewart, representing the Town Center Committee, the Select Board, Chief Walsh and Dennis McCarthy.

F. Beach Committee – Addition of Alternate Members

Selectman Epperson (Selectmen's Rep to the Beach Committee) commented he is really enthusiastic that people want to be on this committee. There are some fresh eyes on the committee and they have really delved into some issues. Some folks who are on the committee are not able to be there every single meeting, so having two alternates will be a great idea.

Motion by Bill Epperson to grant the Beach Committee's request to create two positions for alternate members. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Mae Bradshaw – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Phil Winslow - Aye
Motion passed.

G. Employee Sick Bank Policy

Town Administrator Bergeron explained this is an internal program that a lot of communities have adopted. It would allow employees to donate sick time from their own sick bank leave if another employee was required to be out of work due to a long illness or injury and had exhausted their sick pay time off.

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the Employee Sick Bank Policy as presented by the Town Administrator. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Mae Bradshaw – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Phil Winslow - Aye

Motion passed.

H. Discussion of architect for Town Hall Annex renovations

Town Administrator Bergeron stated that Barba and Associates was asked to give an estimate for the architectural drawings and design for the renovations at the TD Bank building. They came back with a price of \$18,875 to do the work. She noted that they are behind and cannot start the work until June or July. The drawings wouldn't be ready until late fall. The bidding for the project would happen mid-winter. They are hopeful that the project could start in the spring or early summer of 2022.

The Select Board reviewed the estimate.

Selectwoman Bradshaw stated that her thought is that they should be looking at some local design build people. She would really like to go with someone local to analyze what needs to be done and build it.

Chair Winslow stated there are three ways to go with this. One is that they can accept the proposal. The second is to go out for another architect. They could also try to find a design/build. Maybe someone local would be willing to take on this project.

Selectwoman Bradshaw commented that there seems to be too much of a delay with Nancy Barba's group. She would like to seek an alternative way to move the staff over there faster.

Selectman Epperson agreed.

Town Administrator Bergeron commented that she wants to make sure that whoever they talk to is going to employ a structural engineer to make sure they have the ability to build up.

Chair Winslow asked that this be added onto the next meeting agenda for further discussion.

I. Discussion of Assistant Building Inspector position from P/T to F/T

Chair Winslow noted they have been looking for a part-time assistant building inspector for almost a year and have been unsuccessful in finding someone. With the amount of work that is

being processed through the building department, the fulltime position can certainly be justified. The discussion at this meeting is whether the position should be fulltime. The other consideration is whether the funds are available to cover the fulltime position for the remainder of this year.

Town Administrator Bergeron stated that the position is a Grade 10 and starts at \$28.11 up to a max of \$34.58. In looking at a beginning hire rate with salary and benefits, for the remainder of the year starting September 1st, the total package would be \$33,886. Currently, the budget for the 2021 year for the part-time position is \$41,886.

Selectman Epperson stated that based on the Town's valuation, it is easy to substantiate the need for this position.

Town Administrator Bergeron noted that Building Inspector Chuck Marsden currently has a backlog of four to five weeks with issuing permits. He also has the same backlog for complaints that have been registered. He is having a hard time getting to FEMA requirements. The conditions of approvals on some of the developments have become very arduous. She pointed out that going into budget for 2022, there is a need for more consistent engineering help for some of the conditions on the developments. She continued that Mr. Marsden would also like to really get some "teeth" behind a rental program in Rye to regulate the short-term vacation rentals. This would lend support to the building office but it would also give enforcement legs for Chief Walsh for parking complaints and Chief Cotreau for occupancy. Referring to the fulltime position being proposed, she stated there is plenty of work now, plenty of work on the horizon and plenty of justification. In terms of revenue, last year's revenue was in excess of \$400,000. This year, the department is at \$156,427., as of the end of April. The department is very busy.

The Select Board agreed that a second fulltime building inspector position is warranted. Town Administrator Bergeron will bring this to the Budget Committee to seek support for the position, as well as prepare a job description to be brought back to the Board.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

None

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- Chair Winslow noted that the Board has been approached by two residents on Ocean Boulevard referencing sand dispersal and repair of a seawall, both of which will be done by Greg Bauer Construction. John Thonet, 2316 Ocean Blvd, is in need of a seawall repair. Mr. Bauer can complete this work in one day and access for the repair will be Cable Road Extension. Warren Henderson, 2238 Ocean Blvd, has requested to have Greg Bauer Construction move a foot and half of sand that is up against the seawall and disperse it, as its being done on F Street. Chair Winslow suggested that if the Board approves the work, they should do so with the same constraints that were provided previously:
 - No dump trucks will be allowed to park on the site;

- Work will be preformed during the week (Mon. through Fri.). No weekend or holiday work.
- Work will not commence before 7:00 a.m. or later than 5:00 p.m.
- Contractor will have ground personnel during the operation.
- The duration of the project is one day.
- Work to will be completed prior to Memorial Day.

Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the requests of Mr. Thonet and Mr. Henderson with Greg Bauer Construction doing the work. Both parties will need to submit an application to the building inspector for non-developmental site work. Chuck Marsden will visit the sites to take a picture both before and after the work for the records.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Mae Bradshaw – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Phil Winslow – Aye

Motion passed.

X. OLD BUSINESS

None

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Meeting, Friday, April 2, 2021, 12:00 p.m., via Zoom

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the minutes of April 2, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Bill Epperson.

Roll Call: Mae Bradshaw – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Phil Winslow – Aye

Motion passed.

2. Non-Public Session, Monday, April 19, 2021 (1) per RSA 91-A:3 II (c)
Reputation

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the minutes of April 19, 2021 as written.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Mae Bradshaw – Aye; Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – abstained

Motion passed.

Motion by Bill Epperson to not seal the non-public session minutes of April 19, 2021.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Mae Bradshaw – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Phil Winslow - Aye

Motion passed.

3. Meeting, Monday, April 19, 2021, 6:00 p.m., via Zoom

The following corrections were noted:

- Page 9, it should be noted in the last paragraph that Scott Maron should be **Scott Marion** and Stacy Smith should be **Stacey Smith**.

- Page 9, last paragraph, 4 lines from bottom should read: **The compilation of the surveys will be done by the Rye Planning Board.**

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the minutes of April 19, 2021 as amended. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Mae Bradshaw – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Phil Winslow - Aye

Motion passed.

4. Meeting, Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the minutes of April 21, 2021 as presented. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Mae Bradshaw – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Phil Winslow - Aye

Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bill Epperson to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call: Mae Bradshaw – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Phil Winslow - Aye

Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger



5-10-21 Consent Item A
Robert Wyld
P.O. Box 21
Rye, N.H. 03870
April 19, 2021

Board of Selectmen
Town of Rye
10 Central Rd
Rye, N.H. 03870

To whom it may concern,
With all due modesty I want to first
tell you that I have an IQ of 114. I said
that to get your attention.

I heard about the dredging that was
done recently. If you don't act now,
you will have to do it every X amount of
years

this is how I have it figured out

The mud and whatever else is
brought in by the tide and trapped
by the second break water, the inner
one. If that one is removed it would be
a ~~big~~ fair band-aid.

If both break waters were to be remo-
ved, it would be great

(over)

-1-

1913 01 14A

I ~~also~~ also know what those who commonly use the harbor fear. Another hurricane like the one that hit New England back in the 1950's

There is one answer for that. How often do hurricanes make it this far up the North American coast, and even if one does, how often is it that severe

That storm that came ~~together~~ together over New York City a few years ago and came up doesn't count for two reasons. ① It went over Vermont and all we got was wind and rain and ② It wasn't a true hurricane. It was two storms merged together

Respectfully
Submitted
Robert Wyde

5-10-21 Consent Item C

Janice Ireland

From: Dominique Winebaum <domiwine@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:24 AM
To: Janice Ireland
Subject: Agenda item for Monday, May 10th, Select Board meeting -- attachment included

Dear Janice,

After finding the 1978 Conservation Master Plan and the 1982 Sounding Board Master Plan, I wrote a short article to provide some background information regarding both documents - the article was published in the May Civic News.

I would appreciate it if you could include in the May 10th, Select Board agenda, the article "A Historical Chronology of the Rye Master Plans Leading to the 1985 Master Plan."

<https://ryecivicleague.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Chronology-of-the-Rye-MP-May-2021.pdf>

The 1978 Conservation Master Plan is now posted on the Town of Rye website on the RCC webpage and I felt it warranted some "publicity." Thanks again for scanning the document and for posting it. I believe some of the recommendations made in the 1978 Conservation Master Plan are still relevant today and that they be brought forward for consideration. In particular, the need to identify and preserve Atlantic white cedars in Rye and to plant trees along our roads (urban trees) as well as consulting a forester for guidance (outside the Town Forest). I am aware that there is a grove of Atlantic white cedars that are protected on Brown Mill Pond (donation to the Nature Conservancy 2005).

I have shared the article with both the Planning Board and the RCC.

Regards,
Dominique Winebaum

A Chronological History of the Rye Master Plans
Leading to the 1985 Master Plan

Dominique Winebaum
May 2021

From a historical perspective, it is interesting to note that both the Rye Conservation Commission and the Rye Historical District Commission, were the first Town boards to undertake the task of developing a Master Plan.

States Statutes governing the development of a Master Plan – NH RSA, Section 674:2 – dates back from 1983. Prior to that, community planning was governed under a different set of statutes, Section 36. It appears that prior to 1983, it was not mandated for a Town to adopt a Master Plan, though the development of a Master Plan was governed by States Statutes and while it made sense for a community to plan for more orderly growth. NH RSA, Section 674:2 says that for a town to have a Zoning Ordinance, Historic District, or Capital Improvements Program (all of which Rye has) it must have a Master Plan. Per the RSA, at a minimum a Master Plan must have a Vision section and Land Use section.

In 1978, in an effort to protect Rye's natural resources in light of population growth and development, the Rye Conservation Commission took action by hiring a forester, Phillip E. Reynolds, Ph.D. to prepare a Conservation Master Plan for the Town of Rye, New Hampshire. [Click here for 1978 Conservation Master Plan](#)

Population growth for Rye, as recorded in the 1985 Master Plan, was 10.4% from 1970 to 1980, and 25.8% the prior decade (1960-1970).

The 1978 Conservation Master Plan is a comprehensive report, which provides extensive descriptions of Rye's natural resources, including marshes, cedar stands, and woods, as well as assessments and recommendations. It can be characterized as a Natural Resources Inventory, and this, before Rye had a master plan. It is approximately 250 pages long. As described in the Preface:

The project was undertaken as an effort to aid, facilitate, and accelerate communication and coordination of the various Rye public groups and citizens involved with and concerned with preserving, developing, and properly utilizing Rye's unique, irreplaceable, and often fragile natural resources.

The author catalogues a wide range of conservation problems/needs that he was made aware of through his personal contacts, public meetings, and on-site inspections. This inventory of concerns is still relevant today – some 40+ years later:

- (1). Land use planning or its lack
- (2). Public land management and coordination
- (3). Trends in open space

- (4). Condition and trend of urban shade trees
- (5). Landscaping and beautification needs for urban streets and public places
- (6). Wetlands encroachment
- (7). Public access to natural resources
- (8). Enforcement of existing environmental laws
- (9). Environmental awareness of public officials
- (10). Protection of rare or scarce plant species
- (11). Wildlife habitat needs and condition trends
- (12). Urban roadside conditions (including salting)
- (13). Interest in a Town Forest
- (14). Needs for technical and educational assistance to land owners.

The 1985 Rye Master Plan makes reference to the 1978 Conservation Master Plan, and summarizes some of its recommendations, however, thereafter, and more specifically in the 1998 and 2006 Master Plan, there is no mention of it. The following is copied from the 1985 Rye Master Plan:

Rye's Conservation Commission has traditionally become the responsibility of open space preservation. In 1978 it hired a consultant, Philip E. Reynolds, who prepared a lengthy Conservation Master Plan for the Town of Rye, N.H. The plan report presents excellent descriptions of the natural resources of Rye. It recommended four priorities, as follows: Preservation and protection of the Bellyhack Bog – Berry's Brook watershed; Preservation and protection of the Cedar Run – Brown's Pond – Burke's Pond ecosystem; Protection of the Fairhill Marsh rare cedar stands; Acquisition of the Beach Grove adjacent to the Town Cemetery. This plan provides an excellent beginning for open space preservation planning, particularly as information resource. However, the plan did not target many specific parcels for acquisition strategy. It is recommended that the 1978 effort be followed-up with a study particularly targeted to specific tracts, with highest priorities given to the Bellyhack, Bailey Brook and Fairhill Marsh areas identified in the 1978 plan (Open Space).

The 1978 Conservation Master Plan has been in storage at the Rye Public Library. It is now available on the Town of Rye website, Rye Conservation Commission [webpage](#) – thanks to Janice Ireland, Executive Assistant to the Select Board, who scanned the document.

There are many lessons to be learned from the 1978 Conservation Master Plan and many discoveries to be made. As a result of my reading Reynolds' report, I have become attuned to the need of protecting Atlantic white cedars in Rye; Fairhill Marsh rare cedar stands (what was then and what is there now); identifying Atlantic white cedars throughout Rye, specifically on Route 1A. And this is just for starters.

Master Plan Prepared by the Rye Sounding Board Submitted to Planning Board, June 1982.
This was an initiative carried by members of the Historic District Commission, starting in 1979. Alex Herlihy, who was both a member of the HDC and a member the "Rye Sounding Board" provided me with a copy of the 1982 Master Plan.

Charles Tucker, when he was acting as a City Planner/Regional Planner (1966-1979), was consulted to provide guidelines on how to prepare the Master Plan. Charles Tucker provided a set of nine (9) guidelines on how to formally – and legally – prepare the Master Plan. In short, the role of the Planning Board was to set up the citizen's committee – Sounding Board – to prepare the plan. Here is the description of the Sounding Board in the Introduction:

A Sounding Board is a group of volunteer citizens working for their community in conjunction with the Planning Board, to help plan for the growth and change taking place in that community. The Rye Sounding Board was organized in 1979 and has a core of about 10 people from the original cross-section of 100 townspeople who were invited to participate.

By all means, the plan was done following all the required steps: questionnaires sent to all taxpayers in town; an in-depth study of town needs, incorporated the work of a water quality study, interviews with town officials and boards, conversations with citizens, projections of current trends in Rye and regional, and close consultation with professional planners from the Rockingham Planning Commission.

The plan was submitted to the Planning Board in June 1982.

The 1985 Rye Master Plan

In a prior article, I have provided an extensive summary of the 1985 Rye Master Plan. It was stated to me that the author, Town Counsel, Michael Donovan, was not interested in the work of the Sounding Board – the 1982 Master Plan - as he undertook the task of preparing the 1985 Master Plan. I have not found a reference to the 1982 Master Plan in the 1985 Master Plan.

[Link to article - 1985 Rye Master Plan](#)

5/10/21 Consent Item D

Janice Ireland

From: Shawn Joyce <sjoyce@nerallc.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 6, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Phil Winslow; William Epperson; 'mae bradshaw'
Cc: Janice Ireland; Danna Truslow; Dyana Ledger; Heather Reed; Jaci Grote; Jeff Gardner; Karen Oliver (klwoliver@comcast.net); Karen Rolecek; Katharine Brown; Kim Reed; Mike Garvan; Padi Anderson; Sally King; Shawn Joyce; Susan Shepcaro; Suzanne McFarland; Vikki Howard; s.borne@comcast.net; David Tilton (dbtiltonsr@gmail.com)
Subject: FW: 4/8 CC Minutes
Attachments: Letter to RCC Dated 04.01.20.pdf; 04-08-21 CC Minutes.pdf

Dear BOS:

Please see the attached email trail as well the 4/8/21 RCC meeting minutes.

Our letter dated 4/1/21 was not read as the RCC Chair stated it would be.

More importantly the letter was never acknowledge on the RCC's public agenda nor was it included with the public minutes of the meeting, even when it was clearly requested.

We have found this to be a reoccurring issue which suppresses fair process, transparency and distorts the public record. We understand that the RCC rather do what they like and not work with others. However, as stewards of the Town, the RCC should embrace working with the public and not have the ability to censor any public communication.

We ask that the BOS consult with the town attorney to ensure there are protocols in place to prevent this from continuing.

In closing, we respectfully request that this email be noted as received on the 5/10/21 BOS meeting agenda and it be included with the public minutes that are circulated by email and posted on the town's website.

Respectfully - Shawn & Dave

Shawn Joyce
PO Box 5
270 Washington Rd
Rye, NH 03870

David Tilton
390 Washington Rd
Rye, NH 03870