

TOWN OF RYE SELECT BOARD

Monday, June 28, 2021

5:30 p.m. Non-Public Session – Rye Town Hall

6:30 p.m. Public Session - Rye Jr. High School Cafeteria

501 Washington Road, Rye

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

Others Present: Town Administrator Becky Bergeron

5:30 p.m. – Rye Town Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Winslow called the meeting to order at 5:30 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 5:30 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 5:53 p.m., Phil Winslow made a motion to come out of Non-Public Session. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. Roll Call: Winslow – Yes, Epperson – Yes, Bradshaw - Yes.

At 6:00 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 6:16 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 – Rye Jr. High School

III. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Winslow called the meeting to order 6:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Winslow made the following announcements:

- A. Town Offices will be closed Monday, July 5th in observance of Independence Day.**

- B.** The town election will be held on Tuesday, July 13, 2021. Absentee ballots can be picked up at the Town Clerk's office for those that cannot vote on July 13th. The election will be held at the Rye Elementary School.
- C.** Chair Winslow thanked Lee Arthur for putting together a great presentation for the 4th of July Celebration.
- D.** After a number of interviews, the Board has selected a candidate to fill the vacant position of Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector.

Motion By Phil Winslow to hire Paula Scavone as the Assistant Town Clerk Tax Collector. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Ms. Scavone gave a short background of her experience. She was previously employed for the City of Harford for four years as the Senior Assessment Technician for personal property taxes. She also retired from Aetna with a marketing, finance and tax background, after 36 years. She lives in Newmarket. The Board Welcomed Ms. Scavone.

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.)

- **Tom King of 535 Wallis Road:** Mr. King stated that he is running for Select Board and is concerned about how Covid precautions has changed the way Rye voters participate in town affairs. Zoom had become the norm but now the town is moving back to in-person meetings and hybrid meeting models are coming into play. There are still a lot of folks that cannot participate in in-person meetings and are technologically challenged. He pointed out that the Zoom linked failed at the library meeting last week and the upcoming "Candidates' Night" is proposed to be streamed on Zoom. He has reached out to some of the other candidates of this election and they are collectively requesting that the Select Board authorize a blanket approval for all town candidates to hold campaign signs at the recycling center between now and the election.

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

- A.** Heritage Commission requests permission to accept and expend funds received from donations in the amount of \$575.00 for the gazebo restoration.
- B.** Email rec'd from Steve Borne, Rye Civic League re: RCL Survey that was sent out to the residents.
- C.** Event Application: Teen4Turtles is requesting permission to hold a lemonade & bake sale at the Recycling Center on Saturday, 7/10/21 from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. to benefit Sea Turtle Conservation.
- D.** Event Application: Mae C. Bradshaw requests permission to hold a sign for candidacy at the Recycling Center on Saturday, 7/3/21 & 7/10/21, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- E. Email from Katy Sherman requesting to place a sign for the U12 Youth Softball League championship on Washington Road & Sagamore Road above or below the Little League championship signs.
- F. Letter of termination to be signed by the Select Board Chair to terminate the contract for services with Rockingham Planning Commission.

Selectman Epperson stated that he wanted to pull Consent Agenda Item B for discussion with Mr. Borne however, Mr. Borne is not in attendance. He would also like to acknowledge Consent Agenda E, U12 Youth Softball League Championship. He reported that PWD McCarthy has the signs and is putting them in place.

Selectman Epperson noted that in recognition of Item B, he asked Steve Carter to be at tonight's meeting to explain in detail what the Town is doing to further the Vision Chapter in the Master Plan and what the efforts are so far.

Mr. Carter explained that the Long-Range Planning Committee (LRPC) is currently in the process of having Julie LaBranche help with the surveys and getting the visioning rolled out. This got complicated because Ms. LaBranche recently left Rockingham Planning Commission to work for herself, so the LRPC had to disengage with Rockingham Planning Commission and re-engage with Ms. LaBranche. Ms. LaBranche is currently filing with the State to get the licenses for her business and she is also obtaining the insurances that she needs. By the next Select Board meeting, her contract will be ready to be signed.

Mr. Carter further explained that the LRPC had developed two surveys:

1. Municipal Survey:

This survey is for the purpose of collecting feedback from the municipal staff, elected officials and board/committee/committee members to get feedback about master planning, the current master plan and what their needs are as a municipal representative.

This survey has been completed and the answers received need to be uploaded to the digital platform. The digital platform will be an external, anonymous platform; such as, Survey Monkey.

2. Resident Survey:

Ms. LaBranche has the LRPC feedback on the questions for the resident survey. This will be a multiple-choice survey. Ms. LaBranche will put these questions in a draft form for review by the LRPC. They had originally planned to have the residents' survey out right after the 4th of July, in order to have them back by Labor Day, but this has been delayed. The hope is to have a visioning session in late September or early October.

Mr. Carter referred to the Civic League Survey. He pointed out that there is only one question relating to the LRPC work. Question number 1 asked; "What is your top three concerns about Rye?". The other questions pertain to the Rye Civic League Organization. He added that they will certainly use any useful information that comes from the Rye Civic League survey, but this will not replace the LRPC data collection exercise, although they will likely overlap some.

Selectman Epperson explained that they decided to stay with Ms. LaBranche because she has been associated with the town for more than ten years. She has been instrumental in updating the master plan in the past and re-writing chapters. In order to maintain that continuity, they decided to continue with her on the visioning.

Chair Winslow stated that he feels that it is appropriate that the Select Board officially meet with each of the chairs of the commissions, committees and boards, around the September timeframe, to identify what their objectives are going into 2022. He asked town Administrator Bergeron to put this on the first meeting agenda for September.

Chair Winslow referred to Mr. King's request to allow all candidates to hold a sign at the recycling center prior to the election. He commented that in order to not have a mass of people at the station, it might be appropriate to allow all candidates, who are in contested positions, hold up a sign. This may be the best way to approach this.

Selectwoman Bradshaw pointed out that she was required to fill out an application and submit a copy of anything that she intended to hand out. She feels that if anyone wants to do it, they should be required to fill out the application. She suggested that the Town Administrator could review the material submitted. **Bob Eaton, Town Moderator**, stated that it is very important that all candidates are treated equally, especially in a highly contested election such as the Select Board, which includes equal access to campaigning at the recycling center.

Selectman Epperson stated that he agrees with Mr. Eaton that every candidate should be treated equally. As long as there is appropriate, political, posturing on their behalf, there would be no reason to deny their application.

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve Consent Agenda Items A, B, C, and E as presented. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Consent agenda item D:

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept and approve applications consistent with the political process that are submitted to Town Administrator Bergeron, for candidates in contested races, who wish to hold their signs on Saturday, July 3rd and July 10th at the Recycling Center. These applications must be in to the town office by Thursday, July 1, 2021. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Consent agenda item F:

Chair Winslow asked that the letter of termination to the Rockingham Planning Commission be signed by the chair or administrator of the planning board.

Motion by Phil Winslow authorize the chair or the administrator of the planning board to sign the termination for services to the Long-Range Planning Committee. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor. Motion Passed.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARING: Lawn Watering Ordinance

The purpose of the ordinance is to implement an outdoor lawn watering ban that would require all residents and businesses, including those on public water systems and private wells, to stop watering lawns during certain days and at certain hours when specific drought conditions occur.

Chair Winslow stated that this was addressed in 2020; however, it was at the end of the year and it was moving into colder weather, so it was not needed. The intent is to preempt the process by establishing a process at the beginning of the season and advertise what has to be done by the public. He asked the Superintendent of the Rye Water District to further explain.

Rye Water District Superintendent Arik Jones explained that once the DES declares a “D1 - Moderate Drought” condition, the Town would be placed under mandatory restrictions. The Town is currently at abnormally dry conditions.

Selectwoman Bradshaw asked if there was a disadvantage to going to level one now.

Mr. Jones pointed out that the Town does not have the authority to do that. Once the State declares the “D1-Moderate Drought” condition, the Town has the authority to enact the mandatory restrictions.

Rye Water District Commissioner Ralph Hickson explained there are voluntary restrictions that could be recommended to the public ahead of the D1 condition.

Chair Winslow suggested an amendment to the section regarding adjusting irrigation systems. It currently refers to even/odd dates and addresses. The proposed amendment would allow watering on Monday, Wednesday, Friday for the odd days and Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday for the even days.

Chair Winslow opened the Public Hearing at 6:55 p.m.

Tom King, 535 Wallis Road, asked if the ordinance would apply to the golf courses.

Selectwoman Bradshaw pointed out that the regulation reads that “grass playing turf of recreational fields, grass playing surfaces of a golf course, and grass agricultural fields used for the production of sod, may be excluded from any restriction pursuant to this paragraph.”

Superintendent Jones explained that Wentworth by the Sea Country Club gets their water from Portsmouth. The Abenaki Country Club gets their water from Aquarion and they also have three private wells.

Chair Winslow asked that the information that goes out to the public include references on the town website and the town Facebook page.

Superintendent Jones stated that their information encourages the public to start doing the restrictions now on a voluntary basis.

Commissioner Hickson pointed out that Aquarion Water had an article in the paper last week asking their customers to only water two days a week on a voluntary basis.

Selectman Epperson asked if the town could do that as well.

Chair Winslow asked Superintendent Jones to find out from the State what latitude the Town has in order to start the level 1 restrictions and bring this information back to the Town Administrator.

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the Lawn Watering Ordinance as amended; changing A to allow watering at odd numbered addresses on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and even numbered addresses on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. All in Favor.

Motion passed.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept moving to Level 1, should it be found that the Town has the legal right to do so. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor. Motion passed.

There was future discussion regarding the exclusion of grass playing turf of recreational fields, grass playing surfaces of a golf course, and grass agricultural fields, including those used for the production of sod, from the ordinance.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to exclude from the restrictions of the ordinance, grass playing turf of recreational fields and grass agricultural fields, including fields used for the production of sod. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor. Motion passed.

B. PUBLIC HEARING: Comcast Franchise Agreement Extension

The purpose of the hearing is to consider acceptance of the Extension of the current Cable Television Franchise Agreement between the Town of Rye, NH and Comcast of Maine/New Hampshire.

Chair Winslow reported that the Board had asked Comcast to change the term of the franchise agreement extension from five to three years. The purpose of doing that was to take advantage of competition, if another carrier were to come into town.

Chair Winslow opened the floor for public comments.

Police Chief Kevin Walsh stated that the Town currently gets cable from Comcast for free. However, the public safety building pays \$180.00 for broadband usage as a backup system for the current system in case of a catastrophic event. He was wondering if Comcast would waive that fee.

Town Administrator Bergeron stated that she would be willing to see if they would agree to it. She explained that this is the extension to the agreement that was signed back in 2016, which does not include that. She would have to go back to Comcast and start over again and she would have to notice another public hearing.

Selectwoman Bradshaw pointed out that since the Town is negotiating with Comcast anyways, now would be the time to ask.

Town Administrator Bergeron stated that they are not negotiating. This is the culmination of the negotiation.

After further discussion, Administrator Bergeron agreed to go back to Comcast with this request. Administrator Bergeron explained that if they will agree to this provision, they will have to draft new language and she will have to notice another public hearing. It will take about thirty days. There is no conflict with the agreement that the town currently has because that agreement expired on May 31, 2021.

Chair Winslow closed the public hearing at 7:12 p.m.

C. Discussion on improving the sight line for vehicles exiting Locke Road going west as it crosses Ocean Blvd.

Chair Winslow explained that Ocean Blvd curves at that point making it difficult to see oncoming traffic going north on Ocean Blvd. The request is to move two car lengths back with a sign.

Chief Walsh noted there are already four signs for “no parking” (He estimated that they are no less than 25 yards all around). That section appears to be wider than the other side of Locke Road. He will go to the area on a busy day and get some photos. It is a matter of getting the State to move the signs back. He doesn’t think that would be a problem with the proper documentation.

D. Safety Building Security System Upgrade

Chief Walsh explained that the current system is 14 years old and has had some catastrophic system failures. He has obtained three quotes from vendors. He is recommending the higher quote as it matches the school’s software. The overall goal is to control the school from the safety building. If there were a fire or an intruder at the school, the responders would be able to lock and unlock the doors remotely.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the proposal to work with Pelmac Industries in the amount of \$22,812. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Note: The funds for this purchase will be taken out of the Building Maintenance Expendable Trust.

E. Asst. Building Inspector Job Description – fulltime position

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to approve the job description with the correction of the word “internation” in the first sentence to “international”. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

F. Discussion re: ARPA Funds

Chair Winslow explained that ARPA Funds are additional federal funds being made available to towns. There are very strict restrictions on how the funds may be used. Town Administrator Bergeron has provided a list of uses. Chair Winslow pointed out the areas of interest; water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.

Selectman Epperson pointed out that the award to the Town of Rye is \$572,652, (the funds must be applied for).

Administrator Bergeron explained the intent of these funds is to offer aid to towns that suffered difficulties from the pandemic and to bring back jobs that were lost during that time. There are four areas where these funds can be used; public health, infrastructure, economic recovery (helping individuals and businesses that were impacted), and lost revenue. The calculation for lost revenue is complicated and Rye does not show an extreme loss in revenue.

Administrator Bergeron explained that if the Rye Water District wanted to participate, the town would be the grantee. The money for a non-entitlement unit is distributed directly from the State. The town would engage in a sub-grantee agreement with the Rye Water District. The funds would be dispersed through the town for qualified projects. The project would have to be on the list of qualified projects such as; the state revolving fund for the Clean Water Drinking Act or another approved stated funding mechanism. It could also be used for the MS4 - Stormwater. The application deadline is August 18th.

Chair Winslow asked Administrator Bergeron to reach out to the Water District.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to authorize the Town Administrator to communicate with the Water, Sewer and Public Works Departments to see if they want to participate in a town application for the funds and if they have a project that would qualify. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Non-Entitlement Unit Government application for local economic recovery funds; and further, to allow the Town Administrator to sign any subsequent request for payment pursuant to the above application and to accept LFRF proceeds up to \$572,652, subject to a public hearing and following the town's expenditure guidelines. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Letter rec'd from Richard Harty, Asst. Director Seaside Safari Camp at Seacoast Science Center requesting a beach parking permit for his vehicle to access the beach for the program they're running this summer at Rye beaches.

Chief Walsh asked that the Board table this discussion until he has more information. He has knowledge of unauthorized surf lessons happening at Sawyer's Beach that may be tied into this request.

Selectman Epperson noted that the Town has deposited \$70,000 in beach sticker revenue and has issued over 2,800 stickers. In trying to get a parking place with a sticker, the odds are 300 to 1.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- Chief Walsh spoke to the Board about a request from a resident on Perkins Road for a Block Party on July 3rd from 4 to 8 p.m. It is for a small group of about 25 to 30 people. Alcohol and grills would be on private properties. The chairs and tables would be out in the public way. It would

require closing a small area of the road on Maple Avenue from Fosters to Perkins Road. It would be low impact.

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to close Maple Avenue from Foster to Perkins on July 3rd from 4 to 8 pm. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

- Selectwoman Bradshaw noted that RSA 79-D is a statute that allows for tax incentives for saving and renovating barns. She would like the Selectboard to consider enacting this. People who apply for tax incentives to do the barn restorations would have to come before the Board. Each application can be decided on an individual basis; whether the taxes that would be lost for giving them a tax incentive to do the work would outweigh the work to be done.

Selectman Epperson pointed out that this is a program to protect the barns in town. He will provide the information to the Board.

Chair Winslow stated that he would like to be proactive and give authority to the Heritage Commission to approve this, provided that the assessed value of the property is not reduced from what it is now; similar to what is done with solar systems. When solar systems are put in, the house value might go up because of the system, but the Town does not charge taxes on that increase.

Selectwoman Bradshaw noted that this would not be a \$2,000 project. It would probably be a \$250,000 project.

Selectman Epperson read RSA 79-D: “Any owner of an historic barn or other barn building may seek relief by applying to their local governing body, town selectboard or city government, to grant a discretionary preservation easement by agreeing to maintain the historic structure in keeping with historic integrity and character during the term of the easement. The town selectboard or appropriate city government department will then have sixty (60) days in which to act on the application”.

Selectman Epperson suggested they outline this in more detail and what it means to a homeowner.

Selectwoman Bradshaw commented that she will reach out to N.H. Preservation Alliance to see if they would meet with the Board to discuss further.

X. OLD BUSINESS

- Police Chief Walsh noted that he is starting to receive road event permit requests. He will probably be presenting some of the road events in the next few meetings. The same criteria will be used as in the past; such as, no duplicate events on the same weekends.
- Referring to the Town Hall plans, Selectwoman Bradshaw asked if Wheelock might be reengaged to complete the allocation space in the building, if they are far enough along where they will be available in July.

Town Administrator Bergeron explained that the first focus is on the renovations for the TD Bank building. The reason being is there may not be enough money in the proceeds from the Trolley Barn to do the Town Hall, so it will have to wait for a warrant article.

Selectwoman Bradshaw pointed out there are ways of raising money, also. She would like to know how far along Wheelock is and whether they would be available in July. They are halfway along, in terms of the drawings and measurements. There is no reason to start over again with a new firm. Wheelock should just finish what they started. By then, there should be a good sense of how the structure is going to be within TD Bank. She does not want to wait until they are too busy.

Administrator Bergeron commented that she believes they have done a majority of the drawings. She explained that Wheelock was asked to prepare a number of scenarios. They were asked to take the existing structure, capacity and existing offices in Town Hall and redistribute that to maximize the space. They were also asked to prepare another scenario with the second floor being renovated for meeting and function space with the first floor being designed for a specific number of offices. They have completed those drawings; however, those are not schematic drawings. She will forward those drawings on to the Selectboard.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Meeting Minutes:

1. Non-Public Session, Monday, March 8, 2021 (1) per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the non-public minutes of March 8, 2021 as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

2. Non-Public Session, Monday, May 24, 2021 (1) per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the non-public minutes of May 24, 2021 as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

3. Meeting, Monday, May 24, 2021, 6:00p.m., via Zoom

The following corrections were noted:

- Page 3, under “Karen Oliver”, the 3rd bullet should read: **Leadership means also listening to the advice...**
- Page 5, 1st paragraph, last sentence should read: **It is not something that he is experienced in on a deep level,**
- Page 9, 2nd paragraph, last sentence should read: **This is so people can cross at a crosswalk safely.**

Motion by Mae Bradshaw to accept the minutes of May 24, 2021 as amended. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

4. Meeting, Monday, June 21, 2021, 5:45 p.m., Rye Town Hall

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept the minutes of June 21, 2021 as written. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bill Epperson to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. All in Favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger

6-28-21 Consent Item
B

Janice Ireland

From: STEVEN BORNE <s.borne@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, June 13, 2021 9:56 AM
To: Phil Winslow; Epperson, Bill; Maebradshaw; Frank Hwang; suzanne.ryeconservation@gmail.com; kaletfamily@comcast.net; Tom Pfau; Phil Walsh; Karen Stewart; jro1954@outlook.com; Tim Sanborn; Losik, Patricia; cdbelden@msn.com; Gregg Mikolaities; commissioners.ryewater@comcast.net; JOHN PROVENCHER; James Tegeder; davidkohlhase@comcast.net; mhonda@sau50.org; pattyandbobw@msn.com; wroachiv@gmail.com
Cc: Janice Ireland; Kim Reed; Andrew Richmond; arik.ryewater@comcast.net; Lee Arthur
Subject: Rye Resident Survey actions for Boards, Committees and Commissions
Attachments: Rye Civic League Survey Results.pdf; RCL Survey March 20th Data.xlsx

To Rye Select Board and Town Boards/Committees/Commission Chairs,

In March, the Rye Civic League sent a survey out to approximately 1350 Rye residents to understand what's on the minds of our fellow residents. The survey asked: What are your top 3 issues (in order of priority) that are of concern. Over 120 people responded.

The top issues are

- 1) Beach (Traffic, crowds, noise, etc.)
- 2) Long term planning
- 3) Water Quality.

We have also attached the raw data and a pivot table for you to sort the data for your further review. As we indicated to participants that their input was confidential, we cleansed the data for any identifying information.

We also made this information available to Rye residents via the RCL newsletter and other social media outlets

We kindly request the Select Board and Town Committees, Boards and Commissions to:

1. Include in future meeting agendas a discussion of relevant survey findings and
2. To have the Select Board and the relevant Committee or Commission coordinate on responding to Town's people.

We encourage you to facilitate dialogue with your constituents and hope to see open, public discussions be held.

The Town Website does not list the "Chair" for all groups, so if you are not the "Chair" please pass this e-mail to them.

Also, in June 93% of responses to the the poll that asked if residents would like meetings to have Zoom (2 way online participation for residents) to continue, said "Yes", that is what residents would like your groups to continue with.

Respectfully,
Rye Civic League

Steven Borne
Cell: +1 603 770 1743

Overview

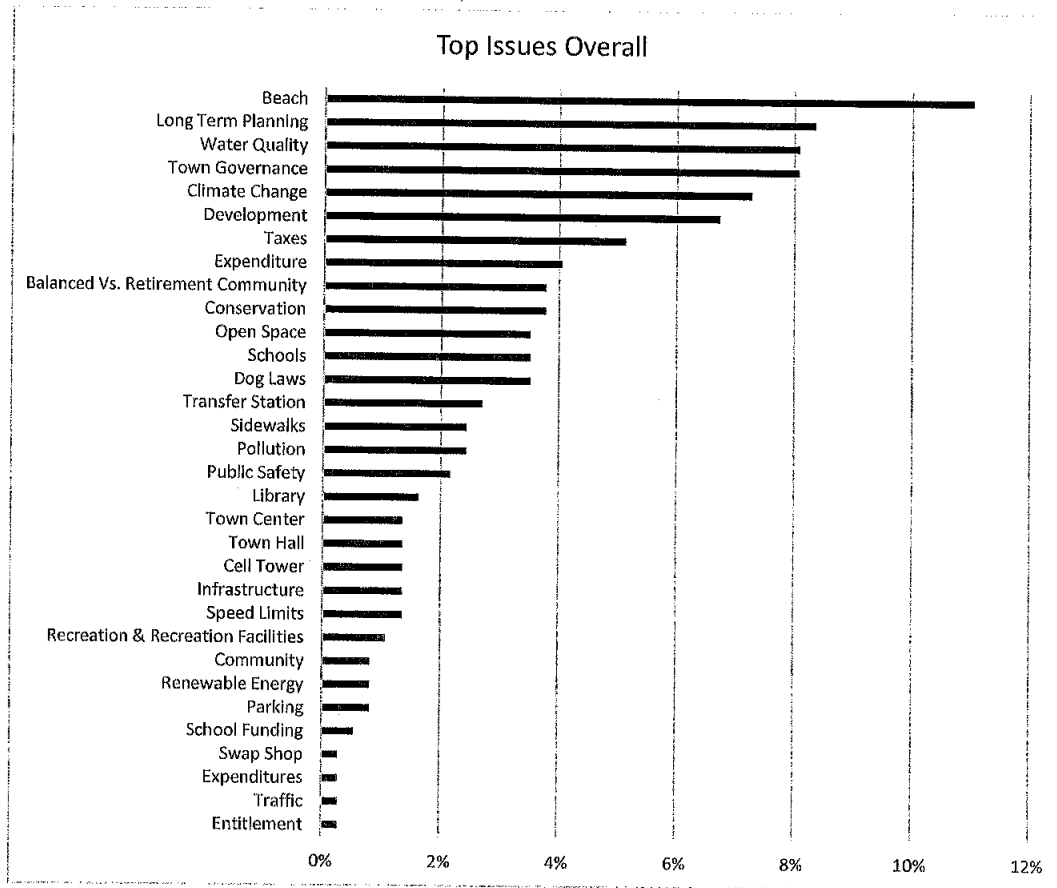
In March the Rye Civic League sent a survey out to understand what's on the minds of residents of Rye. Over 120 people responded to the question: What are your top 3 issues (in order of priority) that are of concern to you. The top issues are 1) Beach (Traffic, crowds, noise, etc.) – 11%, 2) Long term planning – 8%, and 3) Water Quality. – 8%. Many more details are below

Themes in top 10 concerns

1. Beach 11%
 - a. Traffic
 - b. Crowds
 - c. Noise
 - d. Access
 - e. Clean beaches
 - f. alcohol on beaches
 - g. parking
2. Long Term Planning 8%
 - a. Town Center
 - b. Housing development
 - c. Prevent overbuilding on beach roads
3. Water Quality 8%
 - a. Parsons creek
4. Climate Change 7%
 - a. Sea level rise
5. Town Governance 8%
 - a. Efficient small government
 - b. The lack of true and effective leadership
 - c. Ethics
 - d. Lack of transparency
6. Development 7%
 - a. Preventing OVER development of Rye
 - b. Protecting areas that are impacted by development, for example Webster expansions and beachfront developments.
 - c. too much development
 - d. Overbuilding/building within wetlands and open spaces
 - e. Rye is being over-developed.
 - f. Preserving the "quiet, country feel" of Rye and our reasonably dark nighttime skies by limiting commercial developments like the gratuitously light-polluting Partners' Bank on Central Rd. Why do we tolerate a business that has MORE THAN 40 external lights on at night in the middle of a quiet, residential section of town and pollutes our otherwise dark, star-filled nights? The US Post Office next to it provides security lighting without being a light polluter. Let's change this!
7. Taxes 5%
 - a. Too high

8. Balanced Vs. Retirement Community 4%
 - a. Family and kid friendly town
 - b. Not turn into a retirement community for the wealthy
 - c. Aging community
 - d. Balance the kind of community we want to be.
 - e. Inability of families to afford Rye housing
 - f. More young families
 - g. More diverse residents
9. Expenditure 4%
 - a. High expenditures of our small town
 - b. Over-spending
 - c. Keeping expenditures down
10. Dog Laws 3.5%
 - a. Increase the time the dogs can spend on the beach
 - b. Increase the fines for people who don't cooperate and pick up the feces
 - c. One of the best parts of living here is the ability to enjoy beach walks with our dog.
 - d. Dog laws/ dogs on beach enforcement
 - e. Dog leash laws

Detailed results



Items to consider:

Issues and Comments
Beach
Access to beaches
Beach access
Beach access and parking
Beach access-Keeping the Rye resident parking spots, but allowing the public to park along the main road again
Beach assess with priority of local people
Beach crowding
Beach crowds
Beach crowds (too many people on the beach, in the water and on 1A)
Beach not enough parking
Beach parking -- if the town has to pay more in school taxes (donor towns), definitely add parking meters to Ocean Blvd. And side roads to offset costs. Premium rates (more per hour) closest to the beaches; less the farther the spot is from the beach.
Beach parking for residents

Beach parking on route 1a. Should be NO parking
Beach pollution
Beach traffic
Beach traffic, alcohol on beaches, crowds, parking in and driving through neighborhoods, leaving trash.
Beaches (stairs/boardwalk access, parking improvement).
Clean beaches
Continue our surfing traditions. Surf competition Annually?
Crowds
Freedom from over-policing on our beaches
Seaweed on the beach preventing residents from enjoying our sensitive resource
Summer traffic (Motorcycle Noise)
Traffic
Traffic crowds
Traffic, crowds, and noise
Traffic: Out of state beach traffic that pays nothing to use our beaches?
Long term planning
Investing in a comprehensive plan for the future.
Lack of a long term master plan for the town
Lack of a master vision for Rye and instead, focusing on being reactive vs. Proactive to ensure quality of life for all residents.
Long term planning (specifically building use, planning/development, new community services and meeting strategic goals). Town pool, town turf field (indoor), bike paths. Innovation from Recreation- for young and old.
Long term planning (town center, housing developments)
Long term planning as pertaining to over building the beach roads
Long term planning- we shouldn't invite outsiders to vision, an expensive plan for our town center
Long term planning/tax implications
More intentional planning when it comes to town resources/facilities.
No one cares about the master plan
Planning, without any substantial means to follow through is just a piece of paper
Professional Master Plan (so it is best in class)
Town long term planning
Town wide facilities plan - so all buildings form the Transfer station, schools, town center, water, sewer, etc....
Water quality
Clean water
Drinking Water quality
Waste water management
Water quality (e-coli warnings, Parsons Creek septic issue, pfoas and their family of carcinogens)
Water quality is key. It is my opinion that the suffering Parson's Creek watershed is do to compromised septic systems. In a town such as ours and it's past development and it's fragile ecosystem that a Town wide sewer system be installed. I am one of the fortunate ones to have benefit of sewer. Had that not been possible given my home location I would have had to move out of town.
Water Quality- specifically Parsons Creek Watershed and report 2017(?) Indicating action items that have not yet been addressed.

Water quality sucks in Rye
Water quality, especially non-point source pollution
Water quality, testing, and rising costs.
Town governance
Board, board of Adjustment or whatever....sometimes it is the pressure of individuals who, have enough money as the set-back rules that originally were voted on (and were good for preservation of wetlands) are being eroded by new laws every few years.
Change/ improve the stupid rules that now govern how and when we should pump septic systems. Furthermore, the Building Inspector should not be in charge of this program. He does not have the time to monitor this program. He should be inspecting construction projects. Hire a high school kid to monitor septic clean outs.
Different departments cooperating with each other so we do not have overlapping of services (library and rec department programs)
Efficient small government.
Ethics in all boards, mostly selectmen and RCC. There is a total lack of ethics, fairness and transparency which allows insiders to create policy and/or do inside deals, misuse funds, that benefits them and/or their friends. More people need to come forward and speak up and stop the dishonesty that plagues Rye's Town Government.
Inclusive leadership - select board should invite participation of board involved when addressing issues in that board's bailiwick
Lack of transparency in "deals" made with the Select Board members and businesses/citizens who may not have the greater good in mind;
More support at the Town Hall for ordinance education and enforcement
Moving on from disfunctional politics
Parsonage fiasco
Selectboard not listening and hearing residents.
The lack of true and effective leadership on Select Board and the School Board
Too lax a ZBA = almost all applications are approved
Too many rules
Town governance (e.g., the loss of the Parsonage didn't have to happen)
Town governance (transparency, collaboration)
Town governance is poor.
Town governance, more transparency.
Town governance; including expanding partnerships with other towns to share administrative costs and resources.
Transparency
Voter fraud
Climate change
Climate change impact on public beach access and sensitive wetlands.
Climate change and rising sea level
Climate change impact on our shoreline
Climate control with ocean levels and quality of air and water
Rye faces a dramatic acceleration of the historic trend of the "Big Squeeze". We are the line between ocean and land. More and more are seeking the coast to live and especially those with money: big house development, aging population, and economic and housing imbalances. Those not living in Rye come here: during the pandemic, as temperatures rise, etc... Leading to crowding, traffic, all the beach issues etc... The other squeeze: rising oceans and implication on infrastructure, sewer, etc..
Sea level rise

Sea levels rising
Too many snails
Development
Controlled development - not over building or losing the many beautiful historic houses and land that make Rye special;
Controlling/prohibiting development in and along marsh areas and other areas that impact the ecosystem and wildlife habitats
Development - not building in previously designated wetlands or overcrowding.
Following the law on development.
Larger new home tax base covers the high growth increases
Over building
Overbuilding/building within wetlands and open spaces
Parsons Creek development and septic enforcement
Planning to avoid overdevelopment
Preserving the "quiet, country feel" of Rye and our reasonably dark nighttime skies by limiting commercial developments like the gratuitously light-polluting Partners' Bank on Central Rd. Why do we tolerate a business that has MORE THAN 40 external lights on at night in the middle of a quiet, residential section of town and pollutes our otherwise dark, star-filled nights? The US Post Office next to it provides security lighting without being a light polluter. Let's change this!
Preserving the semi-RURAL - more the rural aspect of our town
Preventing OVER development of Rye
Protecting areas that are impacted by development, for example Webster expansions and beachfront developments.
Rye is being over-developed. The proliferation on septic systems is polluting the soil, water and sea.
The amount of new construction and associated land loss is troubling.
Too much development
Webster's Expansion project not fitting in with a single residence neighborhood
Taxes
Keeping taxes low
Reduce taxes
Taxes are too high the town is over spending on managers
Taxes. With the 2017 tax changes, we can't deduct anything over \$10k.
Taxes/spending
Too high taxes
Expenditure
Budget
Careless over spending. This is new england, we're supposed to be frugal.
Expenditures - taxes
Expenditures/cost control
Fire department is too expensive for such a small town. We should be sharing resources with neighboring communities
Keeping expenditures down
Less wasteful expenditure
School and library budgets
Spend more mentality.
The high expenditures of our small town. It worries me that voters seem to think money is a vast reserve they can spend.

Town expenditures, now a new pumper truck? .
Conservation
Coastal drainage
Conservation of lands with public trails for walking dogs and ourselves
Conservation: people choose to live here because of the rural atmosphere. Slowly that is fading away, whether it be the Planning
Land conservation
People respecting conservation property (no dumping, cutting trees down)
Protection of wetlands
Balanced vs. Retirement community
Affordable housing
Aging community
Balance to ensure we keep families
Balanced community
Balanced demographics
Decide if we are a balanced or retirement community.
Getting more young families and more diverse residents to move to Rye
Inability of families to afford Rye housing
Long term planning Balance vs, retirement community
Long term planning to balance the kind of community we want to be.
Moving the average age younger. Promote access for young families
Requirement of large lots limits reasonably priced housing for younger homeowners
Seeing that Rye remains family and kid friendly in the near future (ie not turning into a retirement community for the wealthy);
Dog laws
Access to beaches and open space for dogs under control
Dog laws/ dogs on beach enforcement
Dog leash laws
Dog unfriendliness regs.
Dogs on beach
Honestly I am very happy living in Rye. As silly as it sounds I am most concerned with the dog laws- one of the best parts of living here is the ability to enjoy beach walks with our dog. I would hate to see a few people routinely it for the whole.
I would like to increase the time the dogs can spend on the beach and increase the fines for people who don't cooperate and pick up the feces
No dogs on beach!! We are not a dog park
Off-leash dogs
Out of control dogs in the town forest and beach
Rye remains dog-friendly (maintaining a place dogs can be off-leash safely)
Schools
Exercising control over school infrastructure. We will likely never fill our space again. Regional relationships are key. Repurposing is an essential component. There is no evidence we will ever have larger student bodies. There is little land left to develop. Those of child-bearing age will not b
Keeping our Rye Elementary and Rye Middle Schools attractive for teachers who work to provide excellence in education.
Declining school enrollment but school budgets still expanding
Great schools

If students are taught remotely do we really need new school buildings or the staff to maintain them?
Layoffs and reductions.
Rising School budget despite declining student enrollment which at more than \$33,000 per student is fiscally irresponsible with School Board poor stewards of taxpayer dollars
School budget , stop the spending!! We do not need 2 schools.
Schools remain open (don't consolidate districts)
Schools teaching more history, science and Language arts
Open space
Access to open space
Open space conservation with wildlife conservation and hunting availability
Open space.
Protecting open spaces/ conservation allowing resident participation
Transfer station
Continued positive partnership between the citizens of Rye and The Rye Recycling Center.
Opening swap shop at dump
Swap shop (minimizing trash/waste)
Transfer station (better recycling)
Transfer station open the swappe shoppe and stop charging for every last thing disposed of besides household trash.
Waste management
Sidewalks
Improved sidewalks from Jenness Beach into Rye Town Center. The old trolley path allows for room on Central Road.
3 streets should be designed so they are safe enough fir kids to ride and walk to school.
Bike paths/ped paths along sagamore, washington, central
Lack of sidewalks
No pedestrian or bike lane on Pioneer Rd
Pedestrian path/bike paths
Safe streets for all users including pedestrians and people on bicycles
Safe walking and biking paths
Sidewalks throughout town like Rye Beach has. Grove Rd and Central especially, where many walk and jog daily. Wallis and Washington as well. The shoulders have little to no space to tuck in on approaching vehicles (esp. With a dog) and are broken.
Pollution
Gross polluted marsh by Pirate's Cove
Litter ... On beach, side road (always much on Love Lane)
Litter and pollution on side of roads, in and around marshes and our beaches
Litter control and enforcement along the coastline
Parsons marshes/Wallis Sands beach bacterial pollution
Pollution is also a major concern as the number of cars and people increased during the summer as a resident near the coast I see a huge increase in the amount of plastic trash
Public safety
Public safety in Town Center
Reducing public safety budget
Library
Stop pumping money into the library. I've never been in the library and seen more than three people.

Town Spending: if the library is to remain "appointment only" can we look into repurposing the role of the library?
Cell tower
Cell phone coverage
Increase to Cell Phone coverage
Making sure the Port Way cell tower is constructed
Robust cell coverage throughout the town.
Telecommunications will cell tower ever get built
Infrastructure
Excess municipal buildings, including school buildings
Lack of access to schools for community including Rye Recreation
Paper streets especially rye lane will it get hot topped this year
Stop pushing for expansion of public buildings until all cooperate in using space and plan together
Town center
Having a nice town center with more than just a library and some town buildings, with sidewalks to BOTH schools.
I wish we had more small businesses in the town to support as well.
Town Center -- making it a lovely, welcoming gathering spot;
Utilize former Parsonage site in front of the library. Ideas: relocate bandstand to property for reading nook; remove paving and nicely landscape for general enjoyment; allow food trucks for weekend and other events
Town hall
Completing the restructuring of our Town office spaces to provide save and efficient and ADA compliant workspaces for our employees. Note that this does not require any further study.
Follow-through on properly renovating and utilizing old Town Hall building Move into and properly utilize new Town Hall adjunct (former TD Bank property)
Saving the Rye town hall building
Town Hall: Why the urgent need for more space for town offices? We live in a world of digital storage and not physical storage.
With availability of the TD Bank building, waste no more money on old Town Offices
Speed limits / traffic
Tailgaters and those who disobey speed limit
Put warning sign's up that you are approaching intersection. So tourists don't blow through stop signs.
Speed limit enforcement
Speeding, lower town wide speed limit to 30 with the exception of route
Traffic speeds
Traffic on Washington road
Traffic: Will the police start enforcing speeding in town?
Recreation & recreation facilities
The Town of Rye needs a park! The "Recreation Area" is not a park for all families. It consists of ball fields and some trails in mosquito infested woods. We need a park with paved walking and running trails along with a pavilion that would include picnic tables and clean restrooms. Also needed is a amphitheater for town events and concerts. This can be paid for by home developers. If they want to construct a number of new homes than they have to contribute to building the park
A fourth: lack of investment in recreation department
Expand the Rye Senior Serv program. When we really needed them they
Rec fields-Maintaining them to good quality
Renewable energy

Increased usage of renewable energy
Natural gas
Parking
Do not allow contractors to park on roads (safety issue)
I would also like to see west parking on Route 1A it poses a serious threat to life and property as we get more and more cars parked along the road is just a matter of time till there is a terrible accident
Parking on town roads west of Rt. 1A
Community
Lack of vibrancy in the community, especially in the winter
Maintaining a small town environment of caring and togetherness
Rye coming together as a community
School funding
Donor status
The newly resurrected donor town issue, yikes here we go again!