

TOWN OF RYE - SELECT BOARD

Monday, July 26, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Rye Town Hall

Present: Chair Phil Winslow, Vice-Chair Bill Epperson and Selectman Tom King

Others Present: Town Administrator Becky Bergeron

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Winslow welcomed Tom King to the Board. The Select Board is looking forward to working with him. Chair Winslow thanked Mae Bradshaw for her 10 months of service and support to the Board, during some very trying times, when she took over for Keriann Roman.

The Select Board sent their condolences to Police Chief Walsh on the death of his father.

III. 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.)

- **Joseph Cummins, 990 Washington Road**, expressed concerns regarding the condition of the portion of Washington Road that was just repaved. He asked that Public Works re-mill that section.
- **Kathy Watson, 616 Central Road**, spoke about the appointment of Mae Bradshaw to the Historic District Commission. She felt that it is premature to appoint anyone, based on the recent election. She feels that the voters are interested in seeing new faces. The position should be advertised in the upcoming newsletter.
- **Steven Borne, 431 Wallis Road**, stated that Mae wants be involved and the Town is incredibly lucky to have her. He also felt that anyone that ran this time was going to lose because of the Parsonage issue. It had nothing to do with Mae personally. He also spoke about Wallis Sands Ext. being closed, same as last year, in August. He stressed that it is an over-saturation of leach fields. Nothing is being done to protect the wetlands from the pollution.

IV. 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. Appointment: Conservation Commission** – 2-year term ending 4/01/23
 - 1. Jeff Gardner: Appointment as an alternate – letter rec'd 5/26/21
 - 2. Recommendation letter rec'd 7/22/21 from Suzanne McFarland, Chair

- B.** Appointment: Historic District Commission – 3-year term ending 4/01/24
 - 1. Mae Bradshaw: Appointment as an alternate – letter rec'd 7/16/21
 - 2. Recommendation letter rec'd 7/16/21 from Kaitlyn Coffey, Chair
- C.** Appointment: CIP Committee – Unlimited Term
 - 1. Mae Bradshaw: Appointment as a member – letter rec'd 7/16/21
 - 2. Recommendation letter rec'd 7/19/21 from Steve Carter, Chair
- D.** Appointment: Heritage Commission – 2-year term ending 4/01/23
 - 1. Frank Lagana: Appointment as a member – letter rec'd 7/20/21
 - 2. Recommendation letter rec'd 7/20/21 from Phil Walsh, Chair
- E.** Conservation Commission requests permission to accept and expend funds received from donations in the amount of \$2,500 for the Goss Farm Fall Fair Project.
- F.** Request from Jamie Mutter of the CDC to please place yard signs in Rye to show they are conducting a health study, looking at the human health effects of PFAS exposure through contaminated drinking water at the Pease International Tradeport.
- G.** Letters rec'd from Robert Wylde re: His opinion on the Conservation Commission and on a location for a cell tower.

Chair Winslow asked that Consent Agenda Item F be pulled for discussion and that an addition agenda item be added.

- Agenda Item H. Appointment: Ralph Hickson as a budget committee member to the CIP committee, pending the recommendation from the CIP chairman.

Selectman King expressed concern regarding Agenda Items B, C, D and H. It is his understanding that there is a policy that any vacancy on any board, committee and commission would be advertised on the town website for thirty days prior to an appointment, in order to generate citizens' interest.

Town Administrator Bergeron stated that B has been posted for quite some time as there has been vacancies and C is only a day or two shy of the thirty days. Heritage has also had a number of vacancies and all have been posted on the website.

The appointment to the CIP is different than an open vacancy; as it is for any member of the budget committee to be the representative to the CIP.

**Motion By Phil Winslow to accept Consent Agenda Items A, B, C, D, E and H as presented.
Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor. Motion passed.**

Consent Agenda Item F: Request from Jamie Mutter of the CDC to please place yard signs in Rye to show they are conducting a health study, looking at the human health effects of PFAS exposure through contaminated drinking water at the Pease International Tradeport.

Chair Winslow recommended that the signs be placed in only five locations; the intersections at Parson's Field, Wallis and Washington Road, Washington and Central Road, Washington and Ocean Blvd., and Central and Grove with a time limit of two weeks, from August 1st to the 15th.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Organization of the Select Board

Officers: Chairman
 Vice Chairman

Motion by Phil Winslow to appoint Bill Epperson as Chair of the Rye Select Board. Seconded by Tom King. All in Favor. Motion passed.

Motion by Bill Epperson to appoint Phil Winslow as Vice Chair of the Rye Select Board. Seconded by Tom King. All in Favor. Motion passed.

Representatives to Boards, Commissions, Committees

Planning Board	Bill Epperson
Budget Committee	Tom King
Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Committee	Phil Winslow
Historic District Commission	Tom King
Heritage Commission	Bill Epperson
Beach Committee	Bill Epperson
Town Center Committee	Tom King
Rockingham Planning Board	Phil Winslow
Rye Water District	Phil Winslow
Telecommunication Committee	Bill Epperson

B. Long Range Planning Committee Re: Survey that will be going out to all Town Employees, Boards, Commissions and Committees.

Steve Carter, chair of the Long-Range Planning Committee, explained that the LRPC is prepared to submit the town employee survey to the Board and ask that it be emailed to all the committee, board and commission chairs and to department heads. The Committee is asking that the chairs and department heads are directed to preform the survey by scheduling a meeting with their groups to talk about the questions on the survey and then to have each group submit their responses to the survey. He further explained that this is the beginning of structuring the questions for the visioning session that is planned for late October or November. They would like to get the surveys back by September 17th. The questions are to hear from the departments about their views on the master plan, ways to communicate with the community, what kind of complaints they hear from the community and what changes they would recommend for improvements. The LRPC has also started working on a survey to go out to all the residents to hear what they think about the vision for the future of Rye. The intent is to overlay the comments from the department heads with the observations from the citizens. After putting all the comments together, the goal will be to come up with questions for the visioning session, in order to focus the visioning session on the hot topics. Taking these results and looking at the Rye Civic League survey will lead to a structure for a new visioning chapter for the Master Plan. The LRPC envisions that this will

lay the groundwork for a new master plan, probably not next year, but the year after. The surveys will be conducted on Survey Monkey. There will also be a paper format for those that are not able to go on Survey Monkey.

Selectman Winslow asked if the survey to the public will have an open-ended question; such as: “What do you see as the top two issues that Rye will be facing within the next ten years?”

Mr. Carter agreed that it is important to have a couple of open-ended questions such at this.

Planning Administrator Kim Reed also explained that the LRPC has been using information from other town’s (Hamstead and Exeter) questions, as a baseline to form the questions for the citizen’s survey.

C. Discussion of NH RSA 79: d – Discretionary Preservation Easements

Chair Epperson explained that this is an RSA to preserve historic agricultural structures that are being demolished or not repaired because of the adverse impact of property taxes due to repairs to the structure. Any preservation easement acquired by the municipality pursuant to this chapter shall be for a minimum of 10 years. This would have to go before the voters. The Board’s recommendation is to adopt NH RSA 79: d.

Selectman King pointed out that the assessment can fall within a range of 25% to 75% of the full value of the structure.

Selectman Winslow stated that he talked with the Assessing Department and the barns in Rye average between \$10,000 to \$50,000. He did the math and if there were 40 barns in Rye, worth \$40,000 that qualified with the preservation improvements; it would be \$1.6 million and the taxes would be \$16,352; at 50% it would be \$8,176 lose to taxation.

This will be on the ballot for 2022.

D. Confidentiality Rule

Administrator Bergeron explained that there has been a lot of talk on the NH Manager’s list serve regarding confidentiality with select board members. It has become a particularly hot topic because it appears that the traditional oath of office and the conflict-of-interest statement is not enough. A lot of municipal attorneys have weighed in on this matter. Administrator Bergeron reached out to Attorney Donovan with what she had been hearing and he proposed the language that she is presenting to the Board this evening.

Motion by Phil Epperson to accept the Confidentiality Rule as presented. Seconded by Tom King. All in favor. Motion passed.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Phil Winslow acknowledged a letter from Comcast dated 7/16 regarding their funding support of local school departments and libraries. He recommended that a copy of the letter be sent to the School Board and the Library Trustees and Andy Richmond. This program provides schools and libraries with cable service for free.

Steve Borne stated that Article 22 passed and he asked that the Select Board write a letter to the Town's representatives informing them that the majority of the town's voters are in favor of fair redistricting.

Mr. Borne also asked about the ten-page transition letter from Dennis McCarthy regarding his retirement and the Public Works operation. He was disappointed that it was not included in the meeting minutes from the last meeting.

Administrator Bergeron explained that there were personnel references in the letter that could not be released.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Fire Chief Cotreau presented the proposed per diem firefighter's job description to the Board and asked for their approval and comments. He explained that he took the full-time firefighter's job description and made the changes, which are highlighted. The per diem position is for a part-time employee that will come in and work with the two full-time employees to make a three-man shift. Some of the candidates are firefighters from other communities looking to supplement their pay. Others are firefighters looking to retire and some are just getting into the fire service and are looking to get on the job as full-time. They will report to the shift lieutenant. There is a probationary period and there will be no benefits. They will have to be at least an ambulance qualified EMT, but the department would prefer an EMT A or a paramedic. The goal is to have three people in the fire station at all times. Currently, there is one shift of three full-time firefighters and the department also has three shifts of two. This year they plan to get up to speed with one more of the shifts with two full-time firefighters and one per diem. The annual budget for a per diem is \$52,000 and the department has budgeted \$26,00 for half of this year.

Steven Borne pointed out that the Chief has done a fabulous job in the planning aspect of this; the way he looked at the vehicles, the way he did the analysis of the people, the presentation that he did in June. More of that needs to be done to get that out to the public so they understand all the planning he has done. But with only 11% of the calls needing the extra personnel, Mr. Borne feels that Rye has the same problem as North Hampton and New Castle. They are over saturated with vehicles. He would love to see coordination of the shift in the cost of vehicles between all the communities.

Chief Cotreau stated that he and Mr. Borne have talked on this issue and a lot of it they don't agree. However, they do agree that where you can, you need to look at a regional approach. For example, they currently have automatic aid with Portsmouth, North Hampton, Greenland, and New Castle. When there is a structure fire they are immediately dispatched by Rockingham. The key is that there must have two engines and a ladder going out to a structure fire.

Motion by Phil Epperson to accept the Pre-Diem Job Description as written. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in favor. Motion passed.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

Town Administrator Bergeron referred back to the appointments of volunteers to open positions on committees, commission and boards, discussed earlier. She stated that the vacancies are listed under volunteer and were updated as of June 29th. The CIP was only three days shy of the thirty days.

Town Administrator Bergeron stated that B has been posted for quite some time, as there has been vacancies. Heritage has one member vacancy as well as two alternates.

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Non-Public Session, Monday, June 28, 2021 (1) per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel
(2) per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the Non-Public Session Minutes of June 28, 2021 per RSA 91-A:31 (a) Personnel as written. Seconded by Phil Winslow. Selectman King abstained. Motion passed.

Motion by Phil Winslow to seal the Non-Public Session Minutes of June 28, 2021 per RSA 91-A:31 (a) Personnel as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Selectman King abstained. Motion passed.

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the Non-Public Session Minutes of June 28, 2021 per RSA 91-A:31 (b) Hiring as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Selectman King abstained. Motion passed.

2. Meeting, Monday, June 28, 2021, 5:30 p.m., Rye Jr. High School

These minutes were not approved pending an amendment by Phil Winslow.

3. Non-Public Session, Monday, July 12, 2021 (1) per RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Legal

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve and seal the Non-Public Session Minutes of July 12, 2021 per RSA 91-A:31 (e) Legal as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Selectman King abstained. Motion passed.

4. Meeting, Monday, July 12, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Rye Town Hall

The following correction were noted:

- Page 5, 3rd paragraph reads: Administrator Bergeron stated that she has not gotten a resent update, however she knows that the building permit has ~~not~~ been issued yet.
- It should read: Administrator Bergeron stated that she has not gotten a resent update, however she knows that the building permit has been issued yet.

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the Meeting Minutes of Monday, July 12, 2012 as amended. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Selectman King abstained. Motion passed.

Planning Administrator Reed confirmed that the application for Verizon for Brackett Road is being withdrawn.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Phil Winslow to Adjourn Select Board meeting at 7:29 p.m. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger

7-26-21 Consent Item F

Janice Ireland

From: Mutter, Jamie (ATSDR/OAD/OCHHA) <zwy4@cdc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 11:05 AM
To: Becky Bergeron; Janice Ireland
Cc: Kate Durocher; Launi, Lori (ATSDR/OAD/OD)
Subject: CDC/ATSDR Pease Health Study - Assistance requested
Attachments: Pease Study-Community-Factsheet-H.pdf; Pease Yard sign pic 2.jpg

Good Morning Ms. Bergeron,

I work for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). We are currently conducting a health study, the Pease Study, looking at the human health effects of PFAS exposure through contaminated drinking water at the Pease International Tradeport (see attached factsheet).

We would like to reach the people who may be eligible in your town as some of your citizens may have worked (or know people who worked) at the Pease International Tradeport. We are recruiting adults who worked or children who attended daycare at Tradeport anytime from January 2004 to May 2014. I've provided more details on eligibility requirements in the links below.

We recently were able to place yard signs around Portsmouth (see attached picture) and the Pease Tradeport to spread the word about the CDC/ATSDR Study. We have found yard signs to be especially helpful for recruitment. We are hopeful the Town of Rye would be interested in accommodating yard signs as well. We would like to put yard signs around Rye in prominent places that would reach the most people, such as high traffic intersections. If this is an idea that Rye would support, what would be the necessary steps we need to take in order to proceed?

We would be happy to set up a call with you and your staff to answer any questions about this very important health study. Any assistance you can provide is greatly appreciated.

Thank you again for the consideration.

Jamie

Information on Pease Study: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/activities/pease.html>

Pease Study Fact Sheet: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/activities/pease/community-fact-sheet.html>

Pease Study Video: <https://youtu.be/nUT2ih9buUw>

Jamie Mutter, MS, MPH, REHS, NHDP-BC
CDR, US Public Health Service
 Environmental Health Officer
 Office of Community Health and Hazard Assessment (OCHHA)
 Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
zwy4@cdc.gov | 404.498.6664 office

ATSDR Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

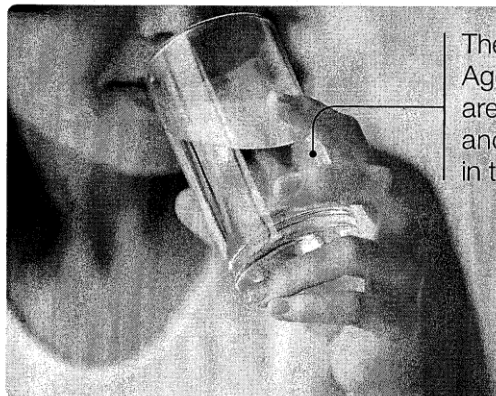
Protecting People from Harmful Environmental Exposures



Pease International Tradeport, NH

The Pease Study: PFAS Health Effects

INFORMATION TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) are studying the **health effects from drinking PFAS** (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)-**contaminated water** in the Portsmouth, New Hampshire area.



- In April and May 2014, tests found PFAS in drinking water from Pease International Tradeport Public Water System (PWS).
- You may be able to participate in the study if you live or have lived in or near Portsmouth, NH and meet eligibility criteria.

Why are CDC and ATSDR doing a study on PFAS in Portsmouth and the surrounding areas?

Portsmouth, New Hampshire and the surrounding areas were selected for the study because residents were exposed to drinking water that contained PFAS.

CDC and ATSDR are recruiting participants for a study to evaluate their PFAS blood levels, health measures like cholesterol levels and thyroid function, and medical history to learn how PFAS may affect health.

CDC and ATSDR want to understand more about PFAS human health effects since little is known and because some studies have shown that PFAS may harm human health.

Who may be eligible for the health study?

Some of the eligibility criteria includes:

An adult aged **18 or older** who

- worked or attended school at Pease International Tradeport anytime from January 2004 to May 2014, or
- lived in Newington at anytime from January 2004 to the present and used a private well with documented PFAS contamination.

A child aged **4 through 17** who has parent or guardian permission and

- attended daycare at Pease International Tradeport at anytime from January 2004 to May 2014, or
- was born to and/or breastfed by a mother who meets the adult eligibility criteria.

A small group of adults and children who do not meet the criteria above may also be eligible to participate. Eligibility will be screened through the Pease Study call center.

What are PFAS?



PFAS are human-made chemicals used since the 1950s in a variety of products, including some cosmetics; water, grease, and oil-resistant products; and firefighting foam. Scientists are still learning how PFAS exposure affects human health, but research involving humans suggests that high levels of certain PFAS **may** lead to the following:

- Increased cholesterol levels
- Changes in liver enzymes
- Decreased vaccine response in children
- Increased risk of high blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women
- Small decreases in infant birth weights
- Increased risk of kidney or testicular cancer



Pease International Tradeport, NH

How did PFAS get into drinking water?

PFAS containing aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) may have gotten into public and private wells during firefighting and firefighting training on the former Pease Air Force Base. When the City of Portsmouth learned of PFAS water contamination, it closed the most contaminated well supplying the Pease Tradeport drinking water system May 2014.

What types of tests will Pease Study researchers do?

Trained health professionals will be:

- Testing blood and urine samples;
- Taking body measurements;
- Asking about medical history; and
- Studying behaviors in child participants.

What are some benefits to Pease Study participants?

Participants will:

- Help scientists understand how PFAS affect health.
- Receive their individual test results, which they can share with their doctors to monitor their health.
- Receive up to \$75 in gift cards for completing the entire study.

Do you want to know more?

For general information about PFAS or the Pease Study you can:

Visit <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/Pease-Study.html>

Call: 1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)

Email: PeaseStudy@cdc.gov

To see if you are eligible to participate in the Pease Study, you can call the Pease Study call center beginning October 25, 2019. The number is: 603-846-6192. The call center will screen you for eligibility and provide information on next steps.



How are participant's results handled?

- CDC and ATSDR are careful to protect personal information and conceal every participant's identity.



Who analyzes test results?

- Researchers will analyze test results to learn more about the possible health effects of PFAS exposure.



When will the results be available?

- After the study ends and the results are analyzed, CDC and ATSDR will share results as soon as possible and will write and share a report with the public.



National Center
for Environmental Health
Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry

To The Board of Selectmen, ^{7-26-21 Consent Item 5} ^{Rev'd 7/19/21}
 In my opinion the Rye Conservation Committee has too much power. All they have to do is say, "Don't do it. It's bad for the environment, and it doesn't happen, whatever it is. Some one needs to reign them in. They almost rule the town."

Also, I have on good Authority that your looking for a good place to build a cell tower. behind the new section of the Cemetery there is a hill. Send a bulldozer up there, knocking down a few trees if necessary. Level out the top of the hill and build after clearing it of trees and such and build it on the hill and ignore any objections the Rye Conservation Committee may raise.

Sincerely, Robert Wyld

to the Board of Selectmen
Greetings,

the other day I wrote to you concerning the
Rye Conservation Committee taking too much po-
wer

It has since come to my attention that, with
all the construction going on, some of it is on
wet lands.
wet lands are host to various species of plants
and insects

I have not heard the Rye Conservation
Committee say anything about that
my point is that they are hypocrites

Sincerely,
Robert ~~Angelo~~

