TOWN OF RYE – SELECT BOARD

Monday, December 13, 2021 6:00 p.m. Rye Town Hall & Zoom

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

Others Present: Town Administrator Rebecca Bergeron

6:00 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Epperson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

II. NON-PUBLIC SESSION (1) per RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Reputation

At 6:05 p.m., Bill Epperson made a motion to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) Reputation. Seconded by Phil Winslow. Roll Call: Winslow – Yes, Epperson – Yes.

At 6:40 p.m., Bill Epperson made a motion to come out of Non-Public Session. Seconded by Phil Winslow. Roll Call: Winslow – Yes, Epperson – Yes.

6:30 p.m. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING

III. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Epperson called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Note: There was intermittent audio during this part of the meeting, however Selectman Winslow thanked the organizers of the Town Holiday Parade.

- Vice-Chair Winslow thanked everyone who helped organize this year's holiday parade which was held on Sunday, December 5th. He also thanked all who participated in this successful event.
- Selectman King acknowledged the local Girl Scout Troop who participated in the parade. He pulled the Goss Farm wagon with his pickup truck in the parade, which was decorated by the Girl Scouts.

Covid vaccination clinic being held on Saturday, December 18, 2021, 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., at the Rye Public Safety Building

- Free of charge
- Walk in no appointment is necessary
- Vaccines for 5-11 years of age available
- COVID-19 Vaccine booster shots are available for the following vaccine recipients who completed their initial series at least 6 months ago and are:
 - o 65 years and older
 - o Age 18: who live in a long-term care setting
 - o Age 18: who have underlaying medical conditions
 - o Age 18: who work in high-risk settings
 - o Age 18: who live in high-rick settings
- For those who received the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are also recommended for those who are 18 and older and who were vaccinated two or more months ago.
- ➤ The transfer station will be open regular hours on Friday, December 24th and on Friday, December 31st.
 - **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.)

Steve Borne, 431 Wallis Road, expressed his concerns about not being able to find the posting of legal notices on the town's website.

- **VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS** (to be discussed at the meeting only if pulled off the consent agenda by one of the three Selectmen.)
 - A. Conservation Commission requests permission to accept and expend funds received from donations in the amount of \$809.00 for the Goss Farm

Motion by Bill Epperson to accept Consent Agenda Item A as presented. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in favor.

B. Letter rec'd from Gregg Mikolaities re: his resignation from the Recreation Commission.

Vice-Chair Winslow acknowledged Gregg Mikolaities and his outstanding service, for the past 25 years, to Rye Recreation.

The Select Board asked that a special thank you be sent to Mr. Mikolaities for his dedication to the town.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept Gregg Mikolaities' resignation. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. PUBLIC HEARING: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN 2022-2027.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider accepting the CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN 2022-2027.

Steve Carter, Capital Improvements Program Committee Chair, presented the 2022-2027 Capital Improvements Plan to the Select Board. Members of the committee also include Mae Bradshaw, Phil Winslow, Bill Roach, Margaret Honda and Ralph Hickson. A full copy of the 2022-2027 CIP may be viewed on the town's website under the Capital Improvements Program Committee page.

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the 2022-2027 Capital Improvements Plan, as presented, with the addition of the information on the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

B. Energy Committee – Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan & proposed Warrant Article.

Co-Chairs of the Rye Energy Committee, Howard Kalet and Tom Pfau presented the Select Board with the agreement document that outlines the Community Power Electric Aggregation Plan. Mr. Kalet explained that team members of CPCNH (Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire) are advising Rye and other towns on how to go through this process. This document would require a detailed legal review. During that process Mr. Kalet wants to have experts from CPCNH available to explain things and answer any questions.

Town Administrator Bergeron stated that upon the Board's approval, she will get the agreement to the town's attorney tomorrow and within a week or two it should be back with his recommendations. She assumes that at the Select Board's meeting on the 27th they should have a fully updated agreement for final approval.

Mr. Kalet stated that it is his understanding that the CPCNH will also have to approve the agreement, as a protection for the citizens of Rye. There are already four other towns that have submitted their agreements for the review process, who have not heard back yet.

There was discussion regarding the timing of the approval from the CPCNH and placing the warrant article on the ballot for the voters to approve in March. Mr. Kalet explained that there is a clause that allows the Select Board to make changes as they choose. If the Select Board is not comfortable with the agreement, they have the option to pull out of the agreement. The CPCNH approval should not hold up the warrant article.

Administrator Bergeron explained that it is implied by CPCNH that the Select Board has the authority to make minor changes, provided that the changes are not to the "opt in - opt out" status.

Chair Epperson read the proposed warrant article as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Rye Community Electric Power Aggregation Plan version Rye EAP final-12-10-2021. Which authorities the Select Board to develop and implement Rye Community Power in describe therein. Pursuant to RSA 53-E:7.

The Board asked Administrator Bergeron to send the agreement to town council and to ask that it be back to the Board by the meeting of the 27th.

C. Dennis McCarthy, DPW Director – Salt Storage Facility Bid Opening

Public Works Director Dennis McCarthy reminded the Board that they had opened the bids December 1st. He pointed out that there was very little interest in the project, as companies seem to have too much work. The price was exorbitantly high at \$550,000. The budget was \$325,000.

Mr. McCarthy stated that he feels there are three courses of action that could be taken at this time:

- 1. Reject the bid.
 - Put a new warrant article before voters at the 2022 Town Meeting.
 - Rebid the project in 2022.
- 2. Negotiate with the low bidder to hold his price.
 - Put in a new warrant article for the voters in March.
- 3. Reject the bid and negotiate with the building provider.
 - Go sole-source and purchase the building.
 - Have the public works crew do all the additional work.
 - There would have to be a licensed electrician to do the electrical work.
 - This could be possible, but they would need to talk to the building supplier first, before making that decision.
 - They should not talk to the supplier with a bid on the table.
 - o There is a risk with rejecting the bid; because once it is rejected its null.

Even with the risk, Mr. McCarthy felt that option number three was the way to proceed. Because this is a Capital Project, it is a special warrant article and the funds will carry into next year.

There was further discussion regarding the urgency of getting the project underway, as the current building is in deplorable shape. Mr. McCarthy pointed out that he has been working on this plan since he started in Rye and part of the issues is that the budget estimates are seven years old, as costs continue to rise.

Motion by Phil Winslow to reject the bid from William B Davis Excavation in the amount of \$549,959 for the purpose of constructing the salt shed. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

D. Revaluation Communications

Administrator Bergeron told the Board that they have a schedule of the tasks that will happen during the revaluation in their meeting packets, along with the communications that will be sent out to the residents regarding the revaluation process. She and Chief Walsh outlined the things that will be important for the public communications:

- Advertising to the public that the project is happening:
 - o Town website

- o Town and police social media sites
- Pictures of the assessors who will be working in the field, on the town's website
- Using Cars that have a Town Seal
- If in doubt, the resident should call the town hall or the police department
- The assessors wear a lanyard that identifies them as MRI Assessors
- E. Reappointment of Gail Snow, MD as Health Officer and Jake MacGlashing and Chief Mark Cotreau as Deputy Health Offices for a 3-year term effective 12/22/2021.

Motion by Phil Winslow to reappoint Gail Snow, MD as Health Officer for the Town of Rye for a three-year term effective 12/22/2021. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

Motion by Phil Winslow to reappoint Jake MacGlashing and Chief Mark Cotreau as Deputy Health Officers for a three-year term effective 12/22/2021. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Email rec'd from Steve Hillman re: the Beach Committee's year end report to the Selectmen

Chair Epperson stated that Steve Hillman's report contained concerns regarding some beach related issues. He said that he will take care of this personally.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chair Winslow expressed his concerns regarding signs being posted on telephone poles around town advertising services such as snow plowing, car detailing, etc. He suggested that they do a warrant article in order to impose a fine on repeat offenders. The first time a sign is posted, the owner will be told to take it down within a certain amount of time. If it isn't taken down there would be a fine of \$100. The second offense would bring a \$200 fine.

Selectman King added that at the last Historic District Commission meeting the subject of signs within the district was discussed. There is everything from the church, the school, the library and the public safety building, with sandwich boards to speed signs. He has talked to Chief Walsh and they are going to ask the HDC to put something in writing so that they have some guidance, as to what is acceptable. The HDC is trying to make the district more historic and less commercialized. He suggested that some of the signs for town events, could be as effective outside of the Historic District.

Chief Walsh said he did not object to the Board establishing a sign ordinance. He agreed that there are too many signs and he will talk to the officers about being more aware of new signs going up and making calls to have them removed. He also stated that he will have it posted on the Police Department's social media page.

X. OLD BUSINESS

A. Land Use Admin Assistant

Chair Epperson reported that the Budget Committee is pushing back hard on approving this position. He pointed out that in reading the minutes, there was significant dialog regarding the need for this position. He expressed concern because he felt they were back to ground zero without a plan as to how to get all the work done. There was talk about having an engineer under retainer for some of the work, but that will leave holes in the job description.

Selectman King responded that the issue for most of the budget committee members was that it was the first time they had heard about the proposal and they took offense to it. He pointed out that the Budget Committee would be meeting again on Thursday night and he would try to talk to them again about the need for this position.

Administrator Bergeron recommended that the land use board chairs and Kim Reed should attend the Budget Committee meeting on Thursday night. She pointed out that three of the five land use boards have no paid administrative support.

Selectman King spoked about RSA 79-D which encourages preservation of historic NH barns and agricultural buildings by authorizing municipalities to grant property tax relief to property owners who can demonstrate the public benefit of preserving their barn or agricultural building. He reported that he has several assessment worksheets that other towns are using. He wasn't ready to present them this evening, but will be by the meeting of the 27th.

XI. SELECTMEN'S 2022 BUDGET WORK SESSION

- A. Departmental Budgets
- Town Hall Annex 4194-09: The original budget recommended by the Select Board was \$23,550. The Budget Committee took \$10,000 out of building maintenance and reduced the budget to \$13,550. The \$10,000 was for a water line for fire suppression. It is unclear if it will be needed or not at this time. The Budget Committee felt that if it is needed, it should be taken out of the renovation money of \$280,000 and not out of the operating budget.

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the amount of \$13,550 for the Town Hall Annex. Seconded by Tom King. All in Favor.

• Transfer Station Operations 4323-33: The Budget Committee voted to reduce the vehicle tires from \$10,000 to \$2,000 because they are being purchased in 2021.

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the Transfer Station Operating Budget in the amount of \$299.044. Seconded by Tom King. All in Favor.

• **Building Inspector 4240-18:** There was an increase in salaries and benefits, which increased the overall budget by \$10,000.

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the Code Enforcement Budget in the amount of \$291,895. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

• **Library 4550-58:** The Board voted on the wrong budget number at the last meeting the correct amount is \$752,705.

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the Library Budget in the amount of \$752,705. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

- Capital Outlay:
 - Town Hall: \$12,500 for an update of the 2017 Thornton Study for Total Compensation.
 - o Town-wide Computers: \$46,108 for upgrades and replacement
 - Fire Department: \$21,000 Lucas CPR machine for the second ambulance
 - Planning: \$20,000 as a placeholder for additional Visioning sessions and work on the Master Plan.

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the Capital Outlay Budget in the amount of \$99,680. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in Favor.

• Executive 4130-01 Increase by \$1,875 to cover wage and taxes for transcriptionist for additional committee minutes and deliberative session minutes.

Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the Executive Budget in the amount of \$319,576. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in Favor.

B. Warrant Articles

Article A:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the Municipal Buildings Construction and Renovation Capital Reserve Fund established by Article 9 at the 2020 Town Meeting under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of construction or renovation of town owned buildings. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

Motion by Phil Winslow to recommend Article A as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

Article B:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) to be added to the Goss Farm Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund established by Article 13 at the 2021 Town Meeting pursuant to RSA 35:19-a for the maintenance of the Goss Farm, owned by the Town of Rye and managed by the Rye Conservation Commission. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

Motion by Tom King to recommend Article B as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

Article C:

To see if the Town will vote to change the purpose of the Recreation Building Capital Reserve Fund established by Article 12 at the 1996 Town Meeting for the Recreation building and property maintenance fund, to the purpose of creating a maintenance fund for all recreation buildings and land associated or located at the recreation area and to designate the Select Board as the agent to expend, and to raise and appropriated the sum of five thousand (\$5,000) to be placed into this fund. This appropriation is in addition to the operating budget.

Motion by Bill Epperson to recommend Article C as written. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in Favor.

Article D:

Shall the Town vote to modify the elderly exemption for property tax in the Town of Rye pursuant to NH RSA 72:27-a based on assessed value for qualified tax payors to be as follows: for persons 65 years up to 74 years an increase in exemption to \$140,000 currently at \$75,000; for a person of 75 years and up to 79 years an increase in exemption to \$170,000 currently at \$90,000; for a person of 80 years and older an increase to \$200,000 currently at \$105,000. To qualify the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least three consecutive years preceding April 1st of the year exemption is claimed, must own the real estate either individually or jointly or if the real estate is owned by his or her spouse, they must have been married and living together for at least five years. In addition, the tax payers must have a net income of not more than \$45,000 single or married, a combined net income of \$59,900 and own net assets not in excess of \$199,000, excluding the value of the persons primary resident. (Majority Vote is Required). The purpose of this article is the modify the exemption for the elderly due to the current 2022 reevaluation of the Town, in order to improve the exemption to keep pace with the general or average property values, so that no elderly person is behind because of these value changes.

Motion by Phil Winslow to recommend Article D as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

Article E:

To see if the Town will vote to establish the 400 Anniversary Celebration Expendable Trust Fund under the provision of RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of creating a fund to support activities in conjunction with the Town's 400th Anniversary and to raise and appropriated the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) to be placed in this fund, and to designate the Select Board as agents to expend from this fund.

Motion by Phil Winslow to recommend Article E as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

Article F:

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the Rye Community Electric Power Aggregation Plan version Rye

EAP final-12-10-2021. Which authorities the Select Board to develop and implement Rye Community Power in describe therein. Pursuant to RSA 53-E:7.

Motion by Bill Epperson to recommend Article F as written, conditioned upon review of town counsel. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in Favor.

C. Encumbrance

1. Salt Shed

Motion by Phil Winslow to move the approval to treat the 2021 appropriations of \$350,000 for the construction of the salt storage handling and storage facility as encumbered for a maximum of one addition fiscal year. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

2. Back Hoe

Motion by Bill Epperson to move the approval to treat the 2021 appropriations of \$200,000 for the purpose of the purchase of a back hoe as encumbered for a maximum of one addition fiscal year. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in Favor.

3. Mini Pumper

Motion by Bill Epperson to move the approval to treat the 2021 appropriations of \$300,000 for the purpose of the purchase of a mini pumper as encumbered for a maximum of one addition fiscal year. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in Favor.

4. TAP Program

Motion by Bill Epperson to move the approval to treat the 2021 appropriations of \$1,040,000 for the purpose of the various transportation safety improvements as encumbered until December 31, 2025 or until the project is complete whichever comes first. Seconded by Tom King. All in Favor.

5. All Additional Encumbrances

Motion by Bill Epperson to move the approval to treat the 2021 appropriations in the amount of \$394,610.18 as encumbered for a maximum of one addition fiscal year. Seconded by Phil Winslow. All in Favor.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Non-Public Session, Monday, August 2, 2021 (1) per RSA 91-A:3 II (I) Legal Advice

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve and seal the non-public session minutes of Monday, August 2, 2021 (1) per RSA 91-A:3II (I) Legal Advice as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

2. Non-Public Session, Monday, August 2, 2021 (2) per RSA 91-A:3 II (I) Legal Advice

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the non-public session minutes of Monday, August 2, 2021 (1) per RSA 91-A:3II (I) Legal Advice as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

3. Non-Public Session, Wednesday, August 11, 2021 (1) per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the non-public session minutes of Wednesday, August 11, 2021 (1) per RSA 91-A:3II (b) Hiring as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

4. Non-Public Session, Wednesday, August 11, 2021 (2) per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the non-public session minutes of Wednesday, August 11, 2021 (1) per RSA 91-A:3II (b) Hiring as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

5. Meeting, Monday, September 27, 2021, 6:00 p.m., Rye Town Hall

The following was noted:

- Page 2, Consent Agenda Item A reads: Conservation Commission requests permission to accept and expend funds received from ruffle proceeds in the amount of \$1,395.00 for the Goss Farm.
- It should read: Conservation Commission requests permission to accept and expend funds received from <u>raffle</u> proceeds in the amount of \$1,395.00 for the Goss Farm.
- Page 3, Discussion Items; A. Rye Elementary School 4th Grade Class requests approval to sell lemonade at the Recycling Center Saturday, 10/02/21 from 8:00-11:00 a.m. to benefit Alex's Lemonade Stand. There was a question on the statement: *Her parents continue raising money in Alex's memory. To date, the organization has raised over \$200,000,000 for childhood cancer research.*
- Town Administrator Bergeron will try to get clarification on this.
- Page 4, C. Legal Selection Committee Approval of Selection Matrix reads: Vice-Chair
 Winslow suggested that they ask the law firms when they may have two attorneys attending a
 meeting; such as, a planning or zoning meeting. He feels they should try to encourage them to
 minimize the number of attorneys, as the town would be responsible for the rate of two
 attorneys.
- Vice Chair Winslow clarified: They should attempt to restrict the numbers of attorneys attending to one per meeting
- Page 7, Steven Borne, 431 Borne Road,
- Should read: Steven Borne, 431 Wallis Road
- Page 9, 5th paragraph reads: However, at the same time, Conservation has filing from 20117 that needs to be done.
- It should read: However, at the same time, Conservation has filing from <u>2017</u> that needs to be done.
- Page 9, 6th paragraph reads:-Chair Walsh noted that the department has a software system. The only thing that is printed are the arrest reports.

• It should read: <u>Chief</u> Walsh noted that the department has a software system. The only thing that is printed are the arrest reports.

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the meeting minutes of Monday, September 27, 2021 as amended. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

6. Meeting, Thursday, October 14, 2021, 12:00 p.m., Rye Town Hall

The following was noted:

- Page 4, middle paragraph reads: He is not sure this is the most practical or efficient. If may just create confusion with pedestrians with respect to the existing pathway, if it were to remain.
- It should read: He is not sure this is the most practical or efficient. <u>It</u> may just create confusion with pedestrians with respect to the existing pathway, if it were to remain.
- Page 8, VI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS (to be discussed at the meeting only if pulled off the consent agenda by one of the three Selectmen) C. Chief Walsh and Rye Emergency Management requests permission to accept and expend grant funds received from NH DOS Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to use towards the cost of updating the Hazard Mitigation Plan. D. Chief Walsh Event Permit Application: Wallis Sands Half Marathon, Sunday, 10/24/21, 8:00 11:00 a.m. to benefit youth athletic groups
- These are the same items as on page 1. A and B. It was decided to wait until Chief Walsh is in attendance to discuss consent item B.
- Page 7, 2nd to the last paragraph reads: It seems that everyone is saying that the full concept is not a starter.
- It should read: It seems that everyone is saying that the full concept is a non-starter.

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the meeting minutes of Thursday, October 14, 2021 as amended. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

7. Meeting, Monday, October 25, 2021, 5:00 p.m., Rye Town Hall

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the meeting minutes of Monday, October 25, 2021 as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

8. Non-Public Session, Thursday, October 28, 2021 (1) per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the non-public session minutes of Thursday, October 28, 2021 (1) per RSA 91-A:3II (b) Hiring as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

9. Meeting, Thursday, November 4, 2021, 8:30 a.m., Rye Town Hall

The following was noted:

- Page 2, Fire Dept. 4220-16 \$1,768,457 reads: There was discuss about the change in the fire alarm servicing for the municipal buildings to Seacoast Security.
- It should read: There was <u>discussion</u> about the change in the fire alarm servicing for the municipal buildings to Seacoast Security

- Page 3, Animal Control 4414-38 \$39,295 reads: Chief Walsh noted that he is proposing to increase the animal control officer wage from Grade 1 to Grade 8.
- The Board asked for clarification if that was correct. Administrator Bergeron will follow up.
- Page 17, Debt Service BANS 4723-67 \$ 1, reads: Bond Anticipate Note.
- It should read: Bond Anticipation Note.

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the meeting minutes of Thursday, November 4, 2021 as Amended. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

10. Monday, November 22, 2021, 6:30 p.m., Rye Town Hall

Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the Meeting Minutes of Monday, November 22, 2021 as written. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in Favor.

There was discussion regarding a memo from Chief Walsh regarding the issue of people not cleaning up after their dogs on the beaches and on town property. It was suggested that keeping the trash cans out longer may help.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion By Phil Winslow to adjourn the meeting at 8:46PM. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted Dyana F. Ledger

DRAFT MINUTES of the BOS Meeting 12/13/2021 Please see minutes of 2/15/22 for approvals/corrections

Town of Rye Select Board PUBLIC HEARING December 13, 2021, 6:30 p.m., Rye Town Hall

The purpose of the Hearing is to consider accepting the CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN 2022-2027.

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12-13-21 Corres 4

Janice Ireland

From:

STEVE J HILLMAN <steveandkate@comcast.net>

Sent:

Wednesday, December 1, 2021 2:11 PM

To:

Janice Ireland

Subject:

ATTN: Rye BOS - RE: Vote of NO CONFIDENCE for the Beach Committee

HI Janice - Please distribute to the BOS. Thanks - SH...

I recently read the year end report submitted to the Rye BOS by the Rye Beach Committee dated 10/24/21 and it seems that this committee is not following their charge.

The report centers mostly on the Sawyer's Beach area and follows a very narrow focus on Summer Sessions Surf Shop. The committee does not mention other town beaches, public access to these beaches, other permitted groups/activities, illegal plantings on beaches and polluted storm runoff (just to name a few) in this report.

The report contains pictures and several complaints from 2018. As a former member of the Beach Committee, I know that most of these issues have been discussed and resolved through Rye PD and Fire/Safety along with input from the former beach committee members as well.

This report is incomplete and unacceptable and sounds more like the demands of a special interest group than a neutral town committee. Future reports should be centered on facts and practical solutions that are pertinent to the charge of the committee and ultimately for all people that use our beaches.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Hillman (399 Central Rd.)