



Town of Rye Newsletter



Vol. 24, No. 4

A Publication of the Rye, New Hampshire, Select Board

December 2021

Selectmen's Message:

Tax Rate, Town Hall Annex, Town Wide Reassessment and More!

Property Tax Rate set for 2021 – No change in overall rate from prior year: The Select Board voted to not increase the Town Property Tax for this year. Given the impact of increased utility bills, heating costs, and inflation on residents on fixed income the Select Board voted to use a portion of the unassigned fund balance to hold Town taxes stable with last year.

Rye's Town wide tax rate was set at \$10.22 per \$1,000 of assessed value,

- ◆ The Town portion of the rate has decreased from \$3.10 to \$2.80
- ◆ The Local School share increased from \$3.88 to \$4.34
- ◆ The State School share decreased from \$2.27 to \$2.10
- ◆ The Rockingham County share increased from \$.97 to \$.98

In addition, the precinct rates were set as follows:

- Rye Water District increased from 54 cents to 65 cents per thousand of valuation
- Jenness Beach decreased from 16 cents to 12 cents
- Rye Beach increased from 34 cents to 41 cents

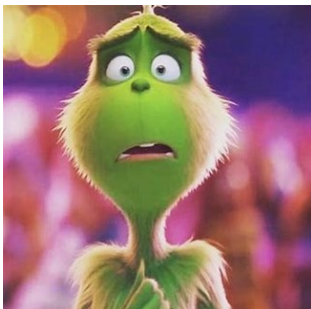
Rye residents should add the

Holiday Parade

"THE GRINCH WON'T STEAL THIS HOLIDAY PARADE"

Sunday, December 5, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Webster at Rye, 795 Washington Road to the Rye Junior High School
For additional information call the Fire Dept. at 964-6411.



town wide tax rate to their respective precinct rate to obtain the total tax rate for their property.

Port Way Cell Tower: At this point the cell tower now located at zero Port Way is complete. The last two items yet to be connected are the power from Eversource and the optic fiber from Comcast. The tower should be operational in the coming weeks. This is a vital upgrade to our cell coverage but there are other gaps in coverage to be filled. As previously announced, our communications committee is actively looking for additional town owned land upon which to build two more towers. This will complete the coverage for the entire town. The advantage to the residents is obvious but just as important will be the safety of being able to call for assistance any time it is required. **Please note:** The cell tower can be viewed from the intersection of Brackett Road and Parsons Road in the area known as Gray's pond. Please be advised that access to the tower is limited to construction and maintenance crews only. The access road traverses private property and landowners granted limited access only as previously mentioned and not to the general public.

Town Hall Annex: The Annex project continues to move forward. The demo of the interior of the building has been completed in accordance with the approved demolition plan. The exterior renovations were approved by the Historic District Commission with minor exceptions. The Select Board, at their meeting on November 8, 2021 approved the final version of the design. Currently the RFP/RFQ is being drafted and reviewed by Town counsel. It is anticipated that the RFP/RFQ will be sent out the week of November 29, 2021 with a proposed due date of December 29, 2021.

TAP (Transportation Alternative Program) Grant: Rye's TAP grant application calls for the construction of sidewalks, bicycle lanes, road shoulder expansion, cross walks, and lighting for 1,900 linear feet of Washington Rd in the center of Rye. It is designed to

improve pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular safety in Rye's center--this project begins just north of the Rye Junior High School and ends just past the Library. Rye's TAP application to the State of NH was approved for funding in late summer of this year by the State Department of Transportation (DOT). The application requested \$1,040,000 with \$300,000 coming from Rye and \$740,000 funded by the State. Although approved by State DOT the funding process requires that the project be vetted by the State Executive Council, submitted to the State Legislature this coming summer for funding, and then provided as part of the State Annual Budget for signature by the Governor. Rye's TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) member Dania Sieglie and Select Board members Bill Epperson and Phil Winslow made presentations at recent State Executive Committee meetings to further support Rye's TAP grant. The TAP grant project is scheduled by NH DOT to go through the engineering stage in 2023/2024 with construction beginning in 2027. We are working with DOT to move the dates forward in an attempt to get the project completed sooner. (Nothing is easy)

Michael Donovan's Retirement: As most of you know by now, Mike is retiring from his position of Town Attorney, a position that he has held since 1993. For a brief period, he will be assisting the Planning Board with ongoing development applications as Special Council. He will be missed as his expertise spans not only the law but also his background in engineering has been indispensable in vetting some complicated cases. Mike originally came to us in 1984 while assisting the Planning Board and has represented Rye since 1988 in land use litigation. Mike's background is extensive. Over the years his experience includes Community Director and then City Manager of the city of Berlin, N.H. and Mayor of Concord N.H. from 2001 until 2007. As you can see his depth of experience and general knowledge of

(See Selectmen's Message, page 2)

Selectmen's Message *(continued from page 1)*

Rye is deep.

The Select Board, being aware of his departure for several months embarked on an extensive search for new representation. Out of seven firms it was narrowed down to two. Both were significantly qualified and have excellent reputations. The winning candidate was Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella with offices in Portsmouth. The firm's expertise spans all aspects of municipal law. In addition to Rye, their 17 attorneys represent a number of surrounding towns. The lead attorney has experience in Rye and will continue to be the point person for us.

New Public Works Director: With former DPW Director Dennis McCarthy's retirement scheduled for December 31, 2021, the Town engaged the services of MRI to handle the recruitment for the new DPW Director. The Town received several resumes, applications and cover letters for consideration. The field was narrowed down to one extremely qualified candidate. At this time a conditional offer of employment has been extended and a comprehensive background screening is ongoing. We are hopeful to have the successful candidate in place by December 13, 2021 to allow for training prior to Mr. McCarthy's retirement. On behalf of the Town of Rye, the Select Board would like to thank Mr. McCarthy for his 11+ years' of service and dedication to the Public Works Department and the Town of Rye. We wish him well in his much deserved retirement.

Recreation Director: Unfortunately, after a very short time in Rye, Meghan Spaulding has decided not to continue in her role as Recreation Director. Ms. Spaulding has decided to pursue a career in the private sector and we wish her the best in her new endeavor. With that, the Town of Rye finds itself on the search for a new Director. Once again, the Recreation Commission has convened a sub-committee to review applications, resumes and cover letters from prospective candidates. The sub-committee engaged several candidates in a first round of interviews and will now conduct second interviews with the Select Board during the week of November 29, 2021. We are in hopes to have a new director

in place by the first of the year. In the interim, members of the Recreation Commission are filling various positions in order to continue programming. A sincere thank you to those volunteer members, we appreciate your dedication to recreation in Rye.

Part Time Town Clerk/Tax Collector Position: Since the departure of our former part time Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector back in April 2021, we have actively been engaged in filling that essential position in the Clerks' Office. In the current economic climate, we were having a difficult time filling a part-time, 32 hour position with no benefits, so we re-structured the position to encompass two 20 hours per week positions, thereby providing better service to our residents. We are pleased to have filled one of the positions and welcome Trisha Katkin to the staff at Town Hall. We are still in need of one more staff member to work Wednesday afternoons and Thursday's and Friday's 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you or anyone you know is interested in this position, please send a completed application and resume to: Town of Rye, Attn: Town Administrator, 10 Central Road, Rye, NH 03870. Please note P/T Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector position on the outside of the envelope.

Goss Farm Fall Fair: In September a group of Rye residents joined with the Conservation Commission to put on an incredibly successful Goss Farm Fall Fair. It happened to fall on a beautiful early fall day and Town residents turned out in droves, an estimated 500 plus people, to enjoy a true Fair experience. Tours of the farm and community gardens, a history of the barn, along with presentations by our resident beekeeper Joey of Sea Bee Honey, Marine Mammal Rescue and Center for Wildlife highlighted the myriad of outdoor programs. Local food vendors included Common Roots, Atlantic Grill, Seaport Fish, La Mulita Coffee and the Girl Scouts bake sale. The Girl Scouts generously donated their earnings (\$809) to the Goss Farm for future projects. Activities included a raffle of amazing items donated by local businesses and residents, crafts by local artisans, and a farm market put on by the resident Goss Farm farmers with produce grown on site. There were also

plenty of family activities such as face painting, games and a library challenge. Numerous town boards and commissions, along with the Historical Society, had information booths stocked with displays. Music was provided by The Buckheads and Cabin Fever. Major event sponsors included Tate and Foss/Sotheby's, Bournival Jeep, Partners Bank, Whole Foods and Piscataqua Landscaping. This Fair provided a much-needed outdoor family social event but also raised over \$17,600 for Goss Farm projects! We extend a heartfelt thanks to the planning group of Dania Sieglie and her team, including Nina Parrot, Chrissy LeBlond, Kasey Gosson and Sally King. Additionally, we thank the numerous volunteers who made the Fair happen, from setup to parking and cleanup, including Rye Police and Fire Rescue, who did their usual stand-up job! We look forward to the next fair!

New Residence Beach Parking Permit Policy: Contained within this newsletter is the new updated version of the resident beach parking sticker eligibility. Over the past decade the procedure has become especially vulnerable to misinterpretation of the intent and eligibility. Under the previous rules, it was possible for and in some cases, residents actually received up to 12 stickers per property. Some unauthorized vehicles were issued stickers as well. The new procedure will take effect for the 2022 season and the procedure is outlined in the notice. The price will remain at \$25.00. Please keep in mind that there are a total of 132 resident beach parking spaces available. Please plan your beach visits accordingly and be courteous to others.

Regional Association Review Committee: The Select Board has authorized a new committee to analyze all funding requests received from Regional Association organizations that were previously established by petition warrant articles. The committee will rate each request in terms of relevance, proportionality, and benefit to the residents of Rye. Further, the committee will make recommendations to the Select Board regarding additional agencies which may also provide significant support to Rye residents. Any residents interested in serving on this committee

Selectmen's Message

(continued from page 2)

should send a letter of interest, including their background, to the Select Board.

Covid-19 status: The pandemic is still with us and has become more prevalent in Rye over the past several weeks. Rye continues to be one of the most vaccinated towns in the state and with the frequently offered clinics it should get better. The next clinic will be on December 18th at the Public Safety building from 1:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Hopefully those who want the vaccine will take advantage of one of these clinics. They are open to all who desire to be inoculated and all three vaccines are available. Recently, children from 5 to 11 years of age have also been qualified. These children will be accommodated as their parents or guardians see fit.

Save this date for the Deliberative Session: Mark your 2022 calendars now to save the date for the first half of our Town Meeting known as the Deliberative Session. At this time, the 2022 budget and warrant articles will be finalized for placement on the March 8th ballot. For the coming year, the Deliberative Session date is **Saturday, February 5th** and the snow date is set for February 12th.

Rye Select Board
Bill Epperson, Chairman
Phil Winslow, Vice-Chairman
Tom King, Selectman

MUNICIPAL RESOURCES INC TO CONDUCT RYE 2022 REVALUATION

The assessing firm, Municipal Resources, Inc. (MRI), has been hired by the Town of Rye to begin a town wide revaluation, in accordance with the NH Constitution Part II, Article 6 and RSA 75:8a, for the 2022 tax year. The purpose of the project is to bring property assessments uniformly in line with market conditions as of April 1, 2022.

Here is a general outline of each

phase of the project.

Phase One, Market Analysis and Valuation: A variety of resources will be used to analyze the real estate market. MRI will analyze recent sales to determine what market factors influence property values. The current market rates for land and building values, demonstrated by property sales, will be used to establish new land and building values for all properties in the Town.

As part of this process MRI will visit all properties that have sold between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2022. MRI will measure the exterior of those buildings and attempt to verify interior property details verbally or with an interior inspection. Owners of property sold between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2022 will be sent letters requesting information about the sale and the condition of their property at the time of sale. MRI will also use information from the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds and local real estate professionals. MRI personnel working in the Town will have picture IDs and letters from the Town identifying them. Personnel information will also be registered with the Rye Police Department.

During the market analysis and valuation, building values will be determined by comparing each property to others with similar characteristics. Land values will be determined based on the desirability of locations throughout the Town as demonstrated by the real estate market.

Phase Two, Field Review: During this review, properties are viewed in the field by assessors who double-check data for uniformity and accuracy.

Phase Three, Informal Hearings: Once Field Review is complete, a notice of preliminary assessed values will be mailed to each property owner. At this time, property owners will have an opportunity to discuss questions concerning the revaluation process, assessed values, or their property data with MRI personnel. After the informal hearings, adjustments to values will be made if needed, and assessments will be finalized and accepted by the Town.

Phases One and Two are expected to take place during the spring and early summer. Phase Three hearings are expected by late July and early August. New values will be reflected in the November tax bills. The NH

Department of Revenue will follow the revaluation making their own follow up visits to a percentage of viewed properties and checking the data.

For more information about the revaluation, please contact Municipal Resources, Inc., 603-279-0352 or the Town offices, 603-379-8270. Please check the Assessing page on the Town website town.rye.nh.us, for a FAQ section about revaluation.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Update

With 2021 coming to an end, it is time to look ahead to 2022. There will be three elections in 2022. The Town Election which will be held on March 8th, the General Election will be held on November 8th, and the Primary Election for which the date is still to be determined however, it is usually held in September.

Beach Stickers go on sale January 1st and the price will still be \$25.00 per permit. Please review the **amended Beach Parking Permit Policy** below.

- **ONLY PROPERTY OWNERS will be entitled to two (2) beach stickers and one (1) additional sticker for a motorcycle/moped.**

A property owner* is determined by the tax bill.

- ♦ **Property owners who lease their properties** year-round may opt to give one or both of their allotted beach stickers to the renters. In this case the renters will have been determined to be residents** of the town and must supply a signed yearlong lease agreement (with the months of May to Oct included for the current season), a vehicle registration with the Rye address as the legal address, as well as a letter from the Property owner forgoing one or both beach stickers.

- Properties listed in a trust will only receive two (2) stickers. It is up to the trustees to determine which two (2) trustees' vehicles will receive the allotted stickers.

Town Clerk

Update *(continued from page 3)*

- No commercial vehicles (besides stickers previously approved by the Select Board) and no vehicles with dealership plates will be entitled to beach stickers. Non-Profits will be on a case-by-case basis.
- PO Boxes do not qualify as a Rye address (this is a common question). Our normal response is you can't sleep in a PO Box.
- A registration for the vehicle on which the beach parking permit is to be affixed must be provided for each permit requested (one per sticker registration).
 - ◆ Rye property owners who do not permanently reside in Rye must show proof of property tax payment, as well as vehicle registration.
- All beach parking permits **must be permanently affixed** to assigned vehicles as indicated on the permit.
- Motel owners and property owners with cottages will receive no more than two (2) beach parking permits for guests and are exempt from permanently affixing the permits to guests' vehicles.
 - ◆ Motel and cottage parking permits shall not be issued until Cabin Licensing fees are paid.
- Any alteration or transference of a beach parking permit to another vehicle other than the vehicle it was assigned to is a **VIOLATION** of the Town's Beach Parking Ordinance adopted March 13, 1956 and is punishable by a \$100.00 fine in accordance with RSA 31:30.
- Any exception to the aforementioned rules must be approved by the Rye Select Board.

Property Tax bills were mailed on November 20th and payment is due on December 23rd. If you did not receive your bill, please contact our office at 603-964-8562.

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office is open to the public M-F, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and closes **promptly at 4:30 p.m.** Transactions

that are not able to be processed **after 4:00 p.m.** include but are not limited to: marriage licenses, motor vehicle renewals, titles, new plates, out-of-state transfers, and new resident transfers. Please visit the town website www.town.rye.nh.us, as you may renew your registration, dog license, beach parking permits, as well as make property and sewer payments there. On the front page of the website, under "Online Registration & Payments", look for the color icon that pertains to the transaction you will be doing. Payments made online can be done by check or credit card.

New boats have to be registered after January 1st. All renewals of 2022 boats may be renewed at any time. Dog Licenses and Beach Parking Permits for 2022 can be renewed after January 1st.

Thank You & Stay Safe.
Donna DeCotis
Town Clerk/Tax Collector

Assessing Department Update

The assessing office is continuing to inspect properties as part of the cyclical inspection process. Properties that have been issued a building permit are also being inspected ensure our property records are correct and up to date.

The Town has contracted with Municipal Resources Inc., the Town's contract assessor, to conduct the required 5 year town wide evaluation. The goal of the revaluation is to bring all property assessments to market value. This process begins by reviewing sales that have taken place from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2022. Data collectors will visit each sale property to verify the information on the property card is correct and in addition to the sale inspections there will be a full field review of all properties to ensure the data is consistent and equitable. The Assessing Department would appreciate the cooperation of all property owners to insure fair and equitable assessments.

In addition to updating assessing records, 2022 is our 5 year required recertification of all exemptions

and or tax credits. The New Hampshire Department of Revenue requires that properties receiving exemptions and or tax credits are reviewed to ensure that they continue to qualify. You can expect to receive a letter requesting information to requalify for the exemption. It is important that if a letter is received, the requesting information be returned to the Assessing Office. Please feel free to contact the assessing office with any questions or concerns you have at 603- 379-8270.

Scott Marsh, CNHA
Municipal Resources, Inc.

Building Inspector Message

Swing sets and Play sets:

If you are like me, then your interpretation of a swing set is that similar to a small metal, tubular frame with a few swings and maybe a slide attached to one end. That's how I remember them from my childhood at least. Today, they have become much more elaborate to include such descriptions as, play sets, adventure sets and so on.

Recently questions have come up regarding swing sets, play sets, and adventure sets.

1. Are they structures?
2. Do they require permits?
3. Must they meet setback and wetland buffer requirements?

According to the Rye General Code, yes they are structures. Therefore, based on that definition they fall under Zoning Ordinance regulations and requirements. It has been determined, that whether they are called "swing sets", "play sets", or "adventure sets", they all are structures and require a Building Permit. These structures are not allowed in the yard spaces or the wetlands buffer.

STRUCTURE: RGC Section 190-11.1 Any temporary or permanently constructed, erected, or placed material or combination of materials in or upon the ground, including but not limited to buildings, mobile homes, radio towers, sheds, and storage bins, storage tanks,

Building Inspector

Message *(continued from page 4)*

portable carports, swimming pools, tennis courts, and parking lots. The following are structures but are exempt from the dimensional requirements unless covered in other parts of the ordinance and codes.

- a. Subsurface waste disposal facilities (See 190-2.2.E. and Building Code 35-15B);
- b. Fences and stone walls (See 190-5.10.);
- c. Driveways (See Chapter 202 Land Development Regulations); and
- d. Fuel storage tanks (See NFPA requirements).

Wetlands Buffer: RGC Section 190-3.1. H. (2) (g) prohibits all uses in the wetlands buffer other than the uses listed in Subsections (c) - (f). Subsection (c) permits by reference uses allowed in wetlands by RGC 190-3.3.E. provided there is no surface alteration by the addition of fill, excavation or dredging.

Setbacks: Structures are not exempt from rear front, and side yard requirements, other than those expressly exempted by the aforementioned definition of "STRUCTURE".

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Building Department.

Milon C. Marsden Jr. CFM
Rye Building Inspector

Recreation Department Programming

For programming offered through the Recreation Department, please contact the Recreation Office at 603-964-6281 or by emailing Vicki at vloring@town.rye.nh.us.



Tips from the Police Chief

Winter Parking: Winter is here and soon the snow will arrive. Residents and visitors are asked to park in their driveways during the night and during snow removal to assist Rye Highway Department with snow removal. The parking ban is in place from November 1st to April 15th.

Snow Plowing: If your driveway is plowed by a private contractor, please remind the contractor not to push snow across the road from your driveway.

Holidays: As we move forward towards holidays with Covid-19, below are some suggestions to consider when planning family gatherings for the holidays. Also visit the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>.

Below are some general considerations for hosting a gathering that includes individuals from different households. Guests should be aware of these considerations and ask their host what mitigation measures will be in place during the gathering. Hosts should consider the following:

- Check the COVID-19 infection rates in areas where attendees live on [state](#), [local](#), [territorial](#), or [tribal](#) health department websites.
- Avoid holding gatherings in crowded, poorly ventilated spaces with persons who are not in your household.
- Increase ventilation by opening windows and doors to the extent that is safe and feasible based on the weather, or by placing central air and heating on continuous circulation.
 - ◊ For additional information on increasing ventilation, visit CDC's information on [Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Home](#).
 - ◊ Winter weather can be cold, wet, and unpredictable. Inclement weather makes it difficult to increase ventilation by opening windows or to hold an event outdoors.
- If setting up outdoor seating under a pop-up open air tent, ensure guests are still seated with physical

distancing in mind. Enclosed 4-wall tents will have less air circulation than open air tents. If outdoor temperature or weather forces you to put up the tent sidewalls, consider leaving one or more sides open or rolling up the bottom 12" of each sidewall to enhance ventilation while still providing a wind break.

- It is also important to stay at least [6 feet away](#) from people who are not in your household when possible.
- Encourage guests to avoid singing or shouting, especially indoors. Keep music levels down so people do not have to shout or speak loudly to be heard.
- Encourage attendees to [wash](#) their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use [hand sanitizer](#) that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Provide guests with information about any COVID-19 safety guidelines and steps that will be in place at the gathering to prevent the spread of the virus.
- Provide and/or encourage attendees to bring supplies to help everyone to stay healthy. These include extra [masks](#) (do not share or swap with others), [hand sanitizer](#) that contains at least 60% alcohol, and tissues. Stock bathrooms with enough hand soap and single use towels.
- Limit contact with commonly touched surfaces or shared items such as serving utensils.
- [Clean and disinfect](#) commonly touched surfaces and any shared items between use when feasible. Use [EPA-approved disinfectants external icon](#).
- Use touchless garbage cans if available. Use gloves when removing garbage bags or handling and disposing of trash. Wash hands after removing gloves.
- Treat [pets](#) as you would other human family members – do not let pets interact with people outside the household.

*** The more of these prevention measures that you put in place, the healthier your gathering will be. No one measure is enough to prevent the spread of COVID-19. ***

Vacation: If you are planning

Police Chief's Tips

(continued from page 5)

to go away, even for just a few days, please make sure your home is locked. If you have a security system, use it; let your neighbors know you are going to be away. Always make sure the driveway and walkways are maintained. Whenever possible, ask someone to check the house and please let the Rye Police know you are away.



Deer Crossing: During this time of year, deer are on the move. We have several herds in town and they cross the roads frequently. Please use caution when traveling around town.

Invisible Fence: We are receiving a lot of calls for loose dogs. Please make sure your dog always has his/her collar and tags on. If you have an electric fence, the battery in the collar needs to be replaced regularly. If the dog is wearing the collar and the battery is not working, the fence is useless. If your dog has his/her tags on, the officer will be able to return your dog to you. Snow on the ground will prevent an electric fence from working. Please check the fenced in area to make sure snow piles are not preventing the fence from working.

Scams: In the age of technology, scams are quite prevalent now and scammers are always looking for new ways to get your money. With the holidays upon us, please double check any packages arriving at your residence and notify the Rye Police if you find packages arriving with your address on them that you did not order or packages with another address on the package. Scammers are tracking packages that are purchased with stolen account information and are waiting for the packages to arrive so that they can retrieve the fraudulently obtained items before the homeowner retrieves the packages. Some of the people will walk up to a house with package in hand to appear they are delivering a package and walk away with another package.

Have a healthy, safe, and happy holiday season.

Chief Kevin Walsh and
all the Rye Police Officers

Rye Fire & Rescue Update



Covid-19 Vaccination

Clinic: We are please to report that our November 14th free voluntary Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic held at

the Public Safety building was a huge success! Total number of persons vaccinated: 530 including 268 children! Many thanks to the state vaccination van folks, Rye PD and FD members who provided support for all aspects of the clinic! Most importantly many thanks to the public for taking advantage of this important offering!

We are also pleased to announce that Rye Fire Rescue will be hosting a second Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic for:

- Those needing a first or second vaccination dose.
- Those needing a booster
- Those children 5-11 whose parents wish them vaccinated

The clinic will be held Saturday December 18th from 1:00–7:00 p.m. at the Rye Public Safety Building. All three manufactured vaccines will be available free of charge and no appointment is necessary. If you are looking for a convenient local place to get your Covid vaccine we would love to see you at the Rye fire station on December 18th! Please call the fire station with any questions at 603-964-6411.

New Per-Diem Firefighters:

Last year Rye Fire Rescue completed our Staffing Strategic Plan which can be found on the Town website under the Fire Department page. The study recommended increasing our shift staffing from 2 firefighter/EMT's per shift to 3 firefighter/EMT's per shift. The recommendation is to phase in this additional staffing using part-time or 'per-diem' staffing over a 3-year period beginning in 2021. Last month the Select Board hired our first two per-diem firefighters, Kaitlyn Pidgeon and Chris Golomb.

Kaitlyn is a paramedic that originally came to Rye earlier this year to do her final paramedic school clinical ambulance work with our paramedics. Our ambulance patients are put at ease with Kaitlyn's friendly approach to patient care! She is acclimating quite nicely to her current role.

Chris is a full-time Firefighter/EMT in Concord NH. He comes to us with a wealth of experience and a great positive attitude. We wish both Kaitlyn and Chris well as they take their new positions!



Mark Cotreau
Fire Chief

Public Works Update

WINTER PREPARATION:

Winter is just around the corner, and everyone is preparing their yards for the coming cold, ice, and snow. So, to is your Public Works Department. Staff are installing and trouble shooting snow removal equipment, installing snow stakes, inspecting plow routes for potential problems, and removing road encroachments such as rocks and stones.

As we do each year, the resident's cooperation is requested to ensure a safe and incident free winter season. Rather than elaborate on how to prepare your road frontage as I do each year, this year I offer the following quick bullet points instead.

- All sports equipment such as basketball hoops and goalie nets should be removed from the limits of the road right of way.
- Mailboxes should be inspected to ensure the support structures can resist the forces of Mother Nature. Only mailboxes actually struck by road maintenance equipment will be eligible for replacement by the Public Works Department.
- Alternate location for vehicles currently parked within the road right of way should be secured.
- Sump pump discharges should be relocated to a location where freezing on the pavement will not be a problem.
- Clear the area around and over area drains of leaves and debris or notify the departments of potential blockages.
- To minimize lawn damage set thin plastic delineators no closer than

Public Works Update

(continued from page 6)

three feet to the edge of road pavement.

- Do not plow or blow snow into the road.
- Watch out for plows and give sufficient room to operate.

Your cooperation is appreciated by the entire Public Works staff.

TRANSFER STATION

HOURS: This year Christmas and New Year's fall on a Saturday. **The facility will be closed on Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th and New Year's Day, January 1st.** It will reopen on Tuesday, December 28th, and Tuesday January 4th.

DIRECTOR DEPARTURE:

After eleven years heading the Public Works Department I will be retiring at the end of the year (December 31, 2021), A new director is in the process of being hired and will be in place prior to my departure. As soon as the hiring process is completed a notification of who the new Director is will be made to the public.

Dennis McCarthy,
Public Works Director

Rye Beach Committee Update

With the winter months upon us, we are seeing continued and increased visitors to the beach, both local and distant. Many continue to enjoy all that the beach has to offer in the "quiet time" from walks to sunrises to surfs to storms to dog romps and sunsets. The Beach Committee continues to spend this time evaluating key concerns for Rye residents while also balancing these with overall public access to residents, visitors, and local businesses.

With the decrease in sunbathers and warm waters, we are seeing an increase in our furry friends enjoying the beach. We remind their two legged companions that Rye beaches are carry-in and carry-out to ensure that we can

keep the beaches and the surrounding oceans clean. To also track the quality of our oceans, the Beach Committee has been working diligently with Surfrider NH and the town of Rye to maintain and possibly expand water quality testing to supplement the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) testing. The DES testing is not year-round, and to ensure proper measurement over the years, it is important that testing occurs year-round. We are thankful for the support of DES, Surfrider NH and UNH for these efforts.

This is also the time of year we may see some sea mammals wash ashore or become stranded. Please do not interact with these animals or let your dogs interact with these animals. If you spot a seal or another animal in distress or dead at the beach, please call the Marine Mammal Rescue Hotline 603-997-9448.

The Beach Committee also examined commercial use of the beach. In Rye, we try to balance the opportunities for residents, visitors and local businesses. The initial recommendations provided to the Board of Selectmen were created based on concerns raised by town citizens, after discussions with local businesses and with both the Police and Fire Chief. Recently the Beach Committee also received additional input from local businesses specifically Summer Sessions related to surf camps. We thank them for coming to our meeting and providing a very thorough analysis and presentation, and their continued support of local organizations. This additional input from Summer Sessions was a good reminder how important it is to support the ecosystem of the beach community. We appreciate local businesses who are committed to safe access to the beach and cultivating an empowered relationship with the ocean.

During the next few months, the Beach Committee will examine and discuss: the increased concerns around the impact of climate change and sea level rising in relation to the beach, water quality and source tracing related to the high amounts of Enterocci (fecal bacterial counts) at some of our local beaches, continued partnerships with local organizations as well as additional ways to educate and inform the Public.

We continue to rely on information and observations from our

citizens. If you see something amiss at the beach or perhaps you have a good idea for the future or have a question, please feel free to email the committee at: beachcommittee@town.rye.nh.us.

Frank Hwang, Chairman
Rye Beach Committee

Rye Senior SERVE Update

Similar to the experiences of so many across the country, 2021 proved to be a challenging time for Rye Senior SERVE. Covid-19 concerns resulted in us having to shut down all of our van services. Thankfully a number of our committed volunteers stepped up to provide grocery shopping services on an individual basis so our seniors were still able to receive necessary items during our shut down. In September we were finally able to begin our regular schedule of van services once more. Our core of dedicated van drivers are back ensuring our weekly breakfast and grocery trips along with the monthly luncheon outings are back on track. Rye Senior SERVE was able, again because of the efforts of our volunteers, to continue with individual transportation services to medical appointments throughout the entire year.

Volunteers are the driving force of Rye Senior SERVE. Every person involved with our organization, from our Board of Directors to our van drivers to our individual drivers is a volunteer. We were fortunate to welcome a few new volunteers to the SERVE team over the past months. The addition of these new team members should allow us to better meet the needs of our seniors.

The outlook is brighter for 2022 and Rye Senior SERVE and our volunteers are committed to continuing our services to the senior population of Rye in the new-year. On behalf of everyone involved with Rye Senior SERVE, I wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

Jim Delaney, President
Rye Senior SERVE

Rye Public Library Events Winter 2021/Spring 2022

Visit Rye Public Library to borrow books and more to guide your experience in the upcoming winter months. Whether you seek snowshoeing trails or a time to keep you reading through spring, we can help! We'll also offer a variety of programming through the period. Watch our website and newsletters for updates.

Ongoing Activities:

Adult Book Discussion: All are welcome to join these lively discussion groups. At this writing meetings are held in-person with physical distancing. Last Friday of each month at 1 pm!

Dec. *Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley

Jan. *Something in the Water* by Catherine Steadman

Feb. *Passing* by Nella Larson

Military Book Discussion: Currently meeting in-person with physical distancing on the First Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.

1/6, 2/3, 3/3

FRIENDS OF THE RYE PUBLIC LIBRARY

New members welcome!

The Friends currently plan for in-person meetings to resume in September.

Second Tuesday of each month at 6:00PM [call RPL for details]

Museum memberships supported by *The Friends*:

Children's Museum of NH, Dover

Currier Museum of Art, Manchester

Historic New England

Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston MA

Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

Museum of Science, Boston MA

Strawbery Banke, Portsmouth

Ogunquit Museum of Art, ME

Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA

Seacoast Science Center, Rye

Woodman Museum, Dover

Passes Donated by the Friends of the Rye Public Library

Many of the Museums listed above are using alternate scheduling arrangements due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Just search for the museum by name in any search engine and click to find details.

ASK A LIBRARIAN about Technology:

If you have questions about our new catalog, or how-to on your device [computer, phone, or tablet] call RPL at 603-964-8401 or email Lisa Breton tech@ryepubliclibrary.org. to set up a one-on-one session for a Tuesday afternoon or evening slot. These sessions are process- oriented rather than to troubleshoot device functionality. If you wonder how to download books and other materials to your device, create an e-mail account or manage storage, etc. this session is for you! If your device just crashed or won't boot up, that's beyond the scope here.

Rye Public Library Youth Department
Programming December 2021 – February 2022
More details at ryepubliclibrary.org or (603) 964 – 9551

Youth Programs:

Toddler Sensory Kits*

Available 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month

Story Time Kits*

Available every week in December

Story Time*

There will be no story time in December.
Story time will resume every Thursday beginning
January 20th 10:30am

Pre-School Messy Art*

Tuesdays beginning January 18th
1:00-1:45pm

Middle Grade Book Boxes*

1st Wednesday of the month

Paper Bag Book Club*

Check website for book titles
Thursdays, December 9th, January 13th, February
10th 4:30-5:15pm
Grades K-3

Teen Book Boxes*

2nd Wednesday of the month

Youth and Teen Take & Makes

Available starting the 1st & 3rd Mondays of the
month while supplies last

YAttitudes Book Club*

Check website for book titles
2nd Tuesday of the month via Zoom
6:00-6:45pm

YAttitudes Book Club*

Check website for book titles
2nd Tuesday of the month via Zoom
6:00-6:45pm

Writers' Group*

1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month via Zoom
6:30-8:00pm
Ages 16+

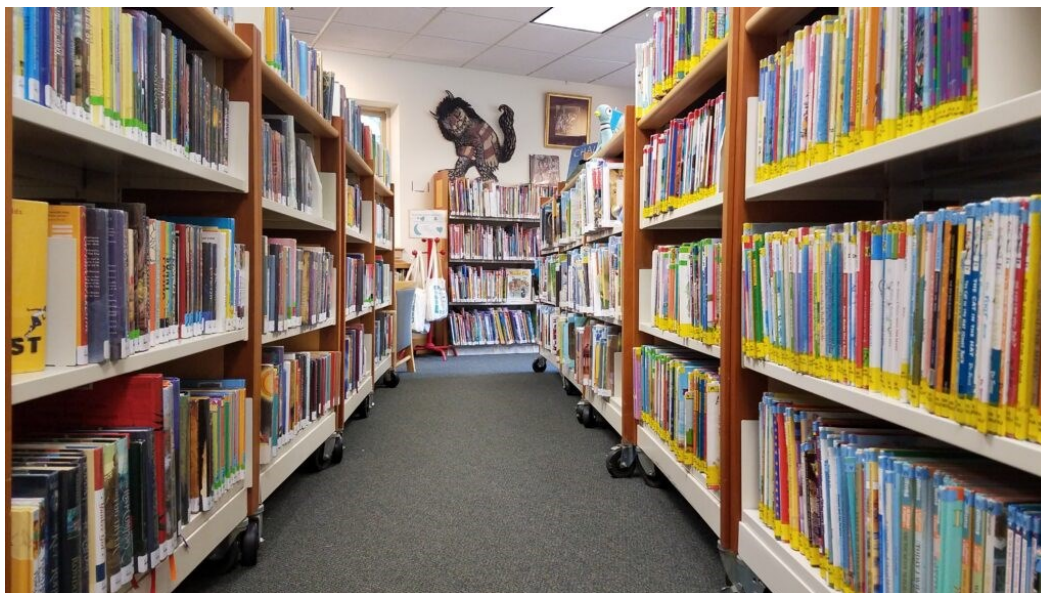
Graphic Novel Book Club*

Check website for book titles
4th Thursday of the month starting in January
4:30-5:15pm
Grades 5-8

Happy Planner*

Thursday, December 2nd, 4:30-5:15pm
Grades 2+

***Asterisked programs require signing up! Please visit our website to register.**



Sewer Department Update

Rye ♻️ Recycling – Let’s Do It the *Rye*-ght Way!

Financially Speaking: The Rye collection system was constructed in the early 1990’s and consists of 6.9 miles of gravity sewer and 3.5 miles of force main. The Town of Rye wastewater collection system discharges to the Town of Hampton and is treated at Hampton’s Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). As part of the current Inter-municipal Agreement that is good until November 16, 2024, Rye is responsible for contributing to the Town of Hampton WWTP upgrades (Rye's share 4%). Significant upgrades are needed at their wastewater treatment plant and as a result the Town of Hampton will be acquiring a 20-year bond for \$11.78 M est. of which Rye’s share is \$471,640 est. with \$33,435.40 est. payable in the first year (2023). Please see the table below indicating the current list of bonds and Rye’s share budgeted for in 2022



- Ideas for the holiday season!**
- Last year’s cards can be reused as tags on this year’s presents.
 - Reuse gift bags and repurpose old wrapping paper/tissue paper on the new gifts.
 - Save the bows for next year’s presents.

Think before you throw it away! Let’s keep everyday items that are still in good condition out of the landfill, such as furniture, clothing, house goods. To give them a second chance, you can donate items to local community organizations such as the Salvation Army Store, Goodwill, Operation Blessing, Savers, The Restore and Journey Home. It only takes a few more minutes out of your busy day to bring your unwanted items to any of the organizations listed above. Be sure to call first for donation hours.

Please only use the Swap Shop for smaller items that are in good condition! Do you realize that everything you put in the Swap Shop after a week or two gets put into the dumpster which in turn goes into a landfill? We continue to see items dropped off at the Swap shop that are not allowed, such as car seats and electronics. Please use the containers outside the Swap Shop for items such as textiles and books. Larger/broken items that do not belong in the Swap shop should be placed in the Wood/Metal/Bulky dumpsters around the corner. We are fortunate to have a few volunteers who help sort and clean out the Swap Shop each week but could always use more. They are the reason the Shop is still open!

Fun Facts.

- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to run a tv for 3hrs.
- Throwing away one aluminum can waste as much gas as it would take to fill that can.
- Two thirds of all aluminum ever produced is still in use today due to recycling.
- A used aluminum can may be put back on a store shelf in as little as 60 days.

We need your help! The Rye Recycling Education Committee still has openings for more members plus needs more volunteers for the Swap

Year	Total \$	Rye’s Share	2021 Payment	Upgrade Description	Final Payment Year
2005	\$4.75 Million	\$190,000	\$10,551.08	Additional clarifier, dewatering equipment, sludge thickening facility	2024
2009	\$1.38 Million	\$55,200	\$3,408.24	Process/control building, replace generator, upgrade headwork’s	2028
2011	\$1.265 Million	\$50,600	\$3,369.80	Sludge monitoring and handling, NPDES Engineering	2034

The proposed sewer budget for 2022 is \$360,288 which includes \$44,600 that is recovered by the owner of Adams Mobile Home Park. This is a \$19,078 increase over last year’s budget and accounts for a \$10,755 decrease and \$29,833 increase. Most of the decrease and increase is attributed to staffing and contract workers benefits and wages.

The Sewer Commission has been allocated \$166,200 from the first installment of the American Rescue Plan Funds (Federal Funding) to conduct pump station upgrades. The upgrades are being coordinated and implemented taking into consideration a pump station evaluation and assessment report from the departments engineer. The current sewer rate is .085 cents per cubic feet of H2O consumption. It is projected that the rate may increase by .5 - 1 cent in 2022. It is important to note that Rye does not bear the full cost of a wastewater treatment facility as the flow is treated at Hampton’s WWTP.

The original bond for Rye’s sewer service in the amount of \$4.4 million that was shared (40%, Town of Rye general fund and 60%, users of the sewer services) was paid off at the end of 2012. The Sewer Department Budget is covered 100% by fees to users.

The Sewer Budget operates out of fund 2. Revenues received from fees and charges are deposited into the fund and department costs are expended from the fund. The monies can accumulate from year to year and are not deemed part of the general fund; the fund must be self-supporting.

Lee Arthur, Sewer Director
10

Rye Recycling Update

(continued from page 10)

Shop. We meet at the Rye Public Library on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM. All interested residents are encouraged to attend.

Happy and Healthy Holidays to all!

Joan Provencher, Senior Member
Rye Recycling Education Committee
ryenhrecyclers@gmail.com

Historic District Commission Update

It is hard to believe that 2021 is coming to an end in a few short weeks. The HDC has had a busy year proudly making strides on long term goals. We are most excited to have completed our Guideline project funded by a CLG grant with the professional help of expert Dominique Hawkins. After the initial writing sessions with Dominique, our group had several editing sessions to perfect the content and wording. The new Guidelines are broken up into easy to navigate sections based upon certain parts of the home. For example, there are sections on masonry, roofing, windows, and site work. Going forward, owners within the Historic District will have a clear and concise resource to reference when planning renovation or repairs at their property. The Guidelines not only provide standards to use in evaluating applications, but also list preferred and acceptable resources noted for owners. The Historic District realizes that sometimes cost might prohibit the use of a material but there are always budget friendly materials available that still comply with HDC regulations. In early 2022 the new Historic District Guidelines will go to press, and we plan to share the document resource with owners in the district.

Another proud accomplishment in the late Fall the HDC held two successful communication workshops. Given the pending launch of the new Guidelines, the Commission felt it was timely and appropriate for professional advice on communication. Many members of the community and other boards

attended the workshops. Highlights from the program included strategies on promoting preservation of community character, ways to develop strong communication plans and learning to communicate across the multiple media channels of today.

Along with communication support the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance presented case studies on negotiating positive preservation of historic buildings and a second case study that analyzed a historic district application regarding replacement windows in Bedford, NH. The HDC looks forward to future collaborations to host additional training workshops.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Kaitlyn Coffey, Chairman
Historic District Commission

Rye Heritage Commission Update

Happy Holidays! This Fall, the Heritage Commission oversaw the installation of storm windows on town hall. A thank you to our Vice-Chair Gail Hughes, who spearheaded this effort from start to finish. This was a Heritage Commission partnership with Friends of Rye Town Hall, a non-profit group in town who is engaging in supporting the Town Hall. At no cost to the taxpayers, this public/private partnership illustrates the ongoing commitment to preserving the town hall.

We continue to encourage residents to adopt graveyards. Thank you to all who have volunteered thus far! Please reach out if you are interested in adopting a graveyard. Contact me with any questions or interest: Phil Walsh at walshrye@gmail.com. Please visit the town website www.town.rye.nh.us and go to the Heritage Commission page. There you will find a link on the left labeled Rye Graveyard Adoption List which will show you a complete list of town graveyards and which ones are available for adoption.

The Commission is taking over for the Historical Society on the commissioning of house plaques. If you

would like a plaque to designate your home, an application can be found on the Heritage Commission page on the town website. Plaques are \$95.00, payable to the Rye Heritage Commission. House plaque applications can be filled out online, printed and mailed to: Rye Heritage Commission, 10 Central Road, Rye, NH 03870. You may pay for the plaque online through the Heritage Commission page. When you click on the symbol it brings you to the payment page, please select "heritage merchandise" in the drop down menu. Please remember to mail in your application and note under "payment enclosed" that you paid online.

The plaques are created and lettered at Timberline Signs located in Rye. Once the Heritage Commission receives your application and payment, we will send the order to Timberline. They will coordinate with you directly on plaque lettering and final approval. When it is done, you will be notified so you can pick it up at Timberline.

Lastly, we sell other merchandise including hats, umbrellas and tote bags. All items are \$20.00 a piece and make great gifts. If you are interested in purchasing and supporting the mission of the Heritage Commission please stop by at Town Hall.

On behalf of the Heritage Commission, we wish you a joyous and healthy holiday season, and an even better 2022.

Respectfully submitted by,
Philip Walsh, Chairman
Rye Heritage Commission

2022 PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLES

Registered voters in Rye may submit Petitioned Warrant Articles for the 2022 Warrant to the Select Board until the deadline of Tuesday, January 11, 2022. For more information, please call the Selectmen's Office by email at selectmen@town.rye.nh.us or by calling 603-964-5523. Instructions are also posted on the Town Website: www.town.rye.nh.us on the Selectmen's Office page.

Planning Board Update

Vision framework/Master Plan: The Long-Range Planning (LRP) Sub-Committee of the Planning Board has been hard at work developing a framework for a new Vision chapter for Rye's Master Plan.

With the help of Julie LaBranche, the town's consultant, and Kim Reed, the town's Planning Administrator, the LRP sub-committee has completed a survey of all municipal departments, town committees, and commissions to discover what their thoughts are for the future of Rye. The LRP sub-committee has also completed a survey of residents to gather thoughts regarding Rye's trajectory for the next five to ten years.

On November 10, a Visioning session was held at Rye Junior High to gather more ideas in person from members of the community about what priorities the town should adopt as a part of the Visioning process. The session was well attended with a turnout of about one hundred community members. The LRP sub-committee will sponsor an additional Visioning session on January 12 from 6:30 to 8PM in the fellowship hall of the Rye Congressional Church for members of the community who were unable to attend the November 10 event. Unlike the November 10 session, where masks were required, at the January 12 session masks will be recommended, but not required. Please register by going to the front page of the Town website at [Rye NH](https://www.town.rye.nh.us)



tors, Scott Marion, Cory Belden, Frank Hwang, and Chris Piela. We are now in the process of distilling the information and look forward to sharing our findings with the community in the weeks ahead

Current applications: Under review by the Planning Board since mid-summer are two Route 1 developments on the former Hector's property. Thirty 2-bedroom residential condominium tri-plex units are slated for the southern portion of the property, and a 78-bed assisted living complex will connect to the former Evolve facility. Both projects are in the Aquifer and Wellhead Protection District, and require Conditional Use Permits meeting requirements for water protection. Information regarding both applications may be found in the Planning Board minutes posted on the Town website.

Proposed 2022 zoning amendments: Proposed zoning amendments for the 2022 ballot may be found at: <https://www.town.rye.nh.us/planning-board/pages/proposed-zoning-amendments-2022-ballot>. A review of the zoning ordinances with assistance from Donahue, Tucker, & Ciandella, PLLC is anticipated in 2022.

We want to thank everyone who has taken the time to provide the sub-committee with input. A special thank you to the Rye Civic League for helping get the word out; Anne Richter Arnold for her article in the Rye Magazine; Doug Voss for his Rye FB posts; Michelle Karcz-Wheeler for organizing babysitting for the event; and for the facilitators,

Patricia Losik, Chair
Rye Planning Board
Steve Carter, Chair
Long Range Planning Vision Committee

12

Rye Energy Committee Update

The Energy Committee has been busy the last few months learning more about Community Power and how it can be beneficial for the residents of Rye. We have been hard at work preparing an Electric Aggregation Plan and warrant article for approval at the March 8 Town Meeting.

At the Energy Committee's recommendation, the Select Board signed a Joint Power Agreement in September to join the Community Power Coalition of NH. The CPCNH is a non-profit organization of NH communities interested in procuring electric supply on behalf of their residents. The Select Board also appointed the Energy Committee to act as the Electric Aggregation Committee and to represent the Town on the Board of the Coalition. Committee member Lisa Sweet was appointed the Town's representative to the CPCNH Board and Howard Kalet as the alternate.

On November 16, we hosted a Public Forum for residents to learn more about Community Power and the draft Electric Aggregation Plan. A second Public Forum will be held at the Junior High School on December 16. At the session an overview of Community Power and the draft Electric Aggregation Plan will be discussed. Residents are encouraged to ask questions and offer feedback on the Energy Aggregation Plan. For more information see the Community Power web page <https://tinyurl.com/ryenhcp> or email us at ryenhec@gmail.com.

The LED lighting upgrade project for the Public Safety Building began in November and may already be done by the time you read this. Other major buildings in town including the Library, schools, recycling center and garage have all been upgraded. Once the public safety building is complete, only the town hall will need to be upgraded. That project will be reviewed once the Town Hall Annex is complete. These upgrade projects reduce energy usage by roughly 20% and provide improved light quality.

The Energy Committee has also provided guidance on potential energy savings and rebates for the Town Hall Annex.

(See Energy Committee Update, page 13)

Energy Committee

Update *(continued from page 12)*

There are available positions on the committee if anyone has any interest in joining. Visitors are welcome too! We meet at 3:00 PM on the first Tuesday of the month at the Town Hall.

Rye Energy Committee

Tom Pfau

Howard Kalet

Lisa Sweet

Carl Nicolino

Nancy Siopes



Rye Mosquito Control Update

It was a wet summer. Towns in southern New Hampshire received over a foot of rain in July introducing hordes of mosquitoes resulting in a busy mosquito season. Despite abundant mosquitoes, no disease was detected in mosquitoes collected from Rye. Every mosquito season presents different challenges. The precipitation received in the coming months will help determine the abundance of mosquitoes in 2022 and whether we see more disease activity.

The NH Department of Health and Human Services confirmed six West Nile Virus (WNV) positive mosquito batches this season. Mosquitoes from Portsmouth, Stratham, East Kingston, Salem and Manchester tested positive. No human or veterinary cases of WNV were identified in New Hampshire. No Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) was detected.

Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV) is a lesser-known disease transmitted by mosquitoes. JCV circulates between deer and mosquitoes. This season, four adults from NH have tested positive for JCV including one fatality. JCV detection in humans has been increasing in the state. New Hampshire has identified 19 human cases of Jamestown Canyon Virus since 2013 including two fatalities. Seventeen of those cases have occurred in the last five years. Jamestown Canyon Virus has become the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in NH.

The State began a pilot program testing mosquitoes for JCV this past season. Mosquitoes were collected from areas with previous human cases, mainly in the central part of the state. Fourteen mosquito batches tested positive for Jamestown Canyon Virus in 2021. The most effective way to prevent JCV, EEE and WNV infections is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes.

Ticks are active in the fall and throughout the winter when temperatures are above freezing, and the ground is not covered by snow. Check yourself, your children and pets for ticks after spending time outside. Adult black-legged ticks are most active during the cooler months of the year. Both nymph and adult ticks can spread Lyme disease and Powassan Virus.

One of the benefits of a cold, snowy winter is not being concerned about ticks or mosquitoes. Enjoy the next few bug-free months. Spring will be here before we know it.

Tim Sanborn, Chairman

Rye Mosquito Control Commission

Conservation Commission Update

Rye Conservation Commission (RCC) continues to carry out its mission of protecting the natural resources of Rye. As part of this effort, RCC obtained in August 2020 a Forest Management Plan for the Rye Town Forest, available in its entirety on the RCC page of the Town website. The recommendation indicated the number one priority in the Management Plan is the removal of invasive plants (See page 30 of the Forest Management Plan). An invasive plant is one that is not native to a particular ecosystem, whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. It is capable of moving aggressively into an area, monopolizing light, nutrients, water, and space to the detriment of native species. The prevalence of these invasives in the Town Forest is made abundantly clear on the map at page 8 of the Plan. Beginning in about 2009, with support from the

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and RCC, invasive plant control began in Rye and included some portions of the Town Forest. At that time, the Town Forest was not the priority focus, but managing invasive plants within the salt marshes in town was. These efforts included work at Awcomin, Fairhill, Marsh and Wallis Road marshes. RCC continues with salt marsh vegetation management over the years when it is deemed needed. With the recommendations of the Rye Town Forest Management Plan, implementation of invasive plant control has been a main priority. The Rockingham County Conservation District completed the initiation of invasive plant control as recommended under this Management Plan, and will continue into 2022. This work will help preserve the native plant species and natural beauty of the Town Forest.

In other conservation efforts, RCC has continued to honor the Goss Farm property's easement to make the Goss Farm a working agricultural property. The farm is available to all residents who would like to become involved in the community gardens. RCC decided it would be a worthwhile long-term investment to run water 300 feet to the two community garden plots from the street water meter hook up. Toward that end, some 16 volunteers showed up on a cloudy Tuesday to dig the trench. These unpaid volunteers, in a matter of five hours, with a rented trencher, dug the trench to save RCC and Rye taxpayers the cost. The RCC is now able to allocate the \$17,600 raised by the Goss Farm Fair committee toward the development of a new well on site to replace the decommissioned inadequate old well. Please help us extend thanks to: David Whitehouse, Eric Allen, Betsy Orlando, Walker Greenwell, Ericka Dufton, Shawn Fraim, Melanie Logan, Mark Epply, Ryan McGill, Mike Garvan, Lee Hodson, Jenny Karnacewicz, Todd Cronin, Sally King, Tom King and Susan Shepcaro.

Speaking of the Goss Farm Fair, RCC joins the Select Board in extending a hearty thank you to the following businesses who sponsored the fair: Tate and Foss (\$8,000), Whole Foods Market (\$2,500), Partners Bank (\$2,500) and Bourneville Jeep (\$2,500). Gratitude goes to all who attended and

Conservation Commission Update *(continued from page 13)*

the many others who made it happen.

Continuing the theme of good people doing good things, RCC is pleased to report that, after a hiatus due to COVID 19, this fall RCC had the opportunity to host two students from the Service Learning Class at Portsmouth High School. These interns helped with preparations for the Goss Farm Fun Fair by weeding blueberries and apple trees. They also assisted with property maintenance. RCC's next project was invasive control in the back portion of the TD Bank property recently acquired by the RCC. Lastly, the interns planted native plants and 40 spring bulbs at the Goss Farm. The RCC has partnered with Portsmouth High School since 2018. The program has allowed RCC to benefit from the energy and enthusiasm of students and allowed them to get an inside look at what is essentially the non-profit entity that is the RCC. Many thanks go to the interns and RCC member Susan Shepcaro for spearheading the program and her many hours of working alongside the students.

Next, from time to time, RCC has the opportunity to support other groups whose mission is to protect natural resources. Our friends at SELT, the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire, are working with Rye landowners Michael Thiel and Gail Richard, to permanently conserve 34 acres of their land along Berry's Brook. Mike and Gail acquired it almost 30 years ago and dubbed it "Ardnaberry," Gaelic for "overlooking the Berry," the tidal brook it adjoins. The property has 1,500 feet of shoreline on the brook – a favorite fishing spot for sea-run brown trout. With its mix of forest and salt marsh, the entire property is considered highest priority habitat by New Hampshire Fish and Game's Wildlife Action Plan. Mike and Gail have agreed to generously donate a conservation easement to SELT – receiving no compensation for permanently conserving this beautiful land that is part of the big block of conservation land that includes Odiorne State Park, right off of Brackett Road. SELT is seeking private contributions from Rye residents to support the costs of accepting this generous gift,

which include boundary survey, title, environmental review, as well as long-term stewardship funds. All told these costs are \$50,000; SELT has received a grant from the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership and is seeking the remaining \$33,300. We encourage those who love Rye's beautiful open spaces to learn more at www.seltnh.org/rye. Thank you Gail and Mike for partnering with SELT to conserve this land.

Finally, the Rye Conservation Commission is saddened to acknowledge the passing of long-time former Chairman Jim Raynes on September 27, 2021. Jim spent his 30 years living in Rye dedicating his time to the conservation of our natural resources. Despite being someone who actively shied away from recognition for his good works, Jim received awards from the town, county and state for his conservation endeavors. He protected land in town passionately and tirelessly. Jim was responsible for spearheading many significant land purchases that impact our daily quality of life. Jim progressively targeted land for conservation with consideration for water resource protection. He also actively worked to enhance wildlife corridors, protect large family held parcels of land, and agricultural properties. When we walk on many of our conservation trails and enjoy our scenic vistas, we owe a debt of gratitude to Jim for his ability to work with landowners who shared his vision for the preservation of their lands. Jim will be missed by many, including those of us who had the privilege to work alongside him on the Conservation Commission, but his legacy lives on in our restored marshes, tended fields, protected forests and open spaces.

Rye Conservation Commission,
Suzanne McFarland, Chair
Sally King, Vice-Chair
Francis "Mike" Garvan, Clerk

Members: Jaci Grote, Susan Shepcaro, Heather Reed, Danna Truslow
Alternates: Karen Oliver and Jeff Gardner

Mark Your Calendars Now

- ◇ Budget Committee Work Session School Proposed Budget Ending June 2023, Tuesday, December 7, 2021, 6:30 p.m. Rye Junior High School
- ◇ Budget Committee Work Session 2022 Town Budget Thursday, December 9, 2021, 6:30 p.m. Rye Town Hall
- ◇ Budget Committee Public Hearing School Budget Ending June 2023, Wednesday, January 12, 2022, 6:30 p.m. Rye Junior High School
- ◇ Budget Committee Public Hearing 2022 Town Budget, Thursday, January 13, 2022, 6:30 p.m. Rye Town Hall
- ◇ Precincts Work Session & Public Hearing Wednesday, February 2, 2022, 6:30 p.m. Rye Town Hall
- ◇ Deliberative Session (First Session of Town Meeting), Saturday, February 5, 2022, 9:00 a.m. Rye Junior High School
- ◇ Snow Date Deliberative Session Saturday, February 12, 2022, 9:00 a.m., Rye Junior High School
- ◇ Municipal Election (Second Session of Town Meeting), Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 8:00 a.m.– 7:00 p.m. Rye Elementary School

Town of Rye Board Meetings

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Selectmen's meetings are held in the Rye Town Hall Courtroom (first floor), 10 Central Road. Other board meetings are also held at Rye Town Hall, 10 Central Road, unless otherwise noted. Because meeting schedules are subject to change, check the bulletin board at Town Hall or the Town Website www.town.rye.nh.us for up-to-date information.

December 2021

				1 9:00 am Rye Water District 5:30 pm Town Center Committee 7:00 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment	2 1:00 pm Long Range Planning Committee	3	4
5 1:00 pm Holiday Parade	6 6:00 pm Recreation Commission	7 3:00 pm Energy Committee 6:30 pm Budget Committee WS School Budget	8	9 5:00 pm Heritage Commission 6:30 pm Budget Committee WS Town Budget 6:30 pm Conservation Commission	10	11	
12	13 6:30 pm Select Board	14 8:00 am Sewer Commission 6:00 pm Planning Board	15 9:00 am Rye Water District Work Session 7:00 pm Beach Committee	16 6:30 pm Budget Committee	17	18	
19	20	21 5:00pm Mosquito Control First Day of Winter	22	23	24 Christmas Day (observed) Town Offices Closed	25 Christmas Day	
26	27 6:30 pm Select Board	28	29 9:00 am Rye Water District	30	30 New Year's Day (observed) Town offices Closed		

January 2022

						1 New Year's Day
2	3 6:00 pm Recreation Commission	4 3:00 pm Energy Committee	5 9:00am Rye Water District 60 Sagamore Road 7:00 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment	6	7	8
9	10 6:30 pm Select Board	11 8:00 am Sewer Commission 6:00 pm Planning Board	12 6:30 pm Public Hearing School Budget	13 5:00 pm Heritage Commission 6:30 pm Public Hearing Town Budget 7:00 pm Conservation Commission	14	15
16	17 MLK Civil Rights Day Town Offices Closed	18	19 9:00 am Rye Water District Work Session 60 Sagamore Road	20	21	22
23	24 6:30 pm Select Board	25	26	27	28	29

February 2022

		1 3:00 pm Energy Committee 4:00 pm Precincts – Work Session & Public Hearing	2 9:00am Rye Water District 60 Sagamore Road 7:00 pm Zoning Board of Adjustment	3	4	5 9:00 am DELIBERATIVE SESSION Jr. High School
6	7 6:00 pm Recreation Commission	8 8:00 am Sewer Commission 6:00 pm Planning Board	9	10 5:30 pm Heritage Commission 6:30 pm Conservation Commission	11	12
13	14	15 6:30 pm Select Board	16 9:00 am Rye Water District Work Session	17	18	19
20	21 President's Day Town Offices Closed	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 6:30 pm Select Board					

Library Trustees, first Thursday every month
5:30 pm at the Library

Additional Civic Meetings: Rye Lions Club, First Wednesday every month, 7 pm at the Rye Library
Friends of the Library, second Tuesday every month, 7pm at the Library








Rye Firefighter's Toy Bank

Summer is over and the holiday season is on its way...

Tis the season that the Rye Firefighters start to plan for the families of the Rye Community and the surrounding Seacoast Area that will be unable to share in the joys of the season. This is the 16th year that the Rye Firefighters have been able to participate in the Seacoast Area Firefighter Toy Bank and we greatly appreciate all of the support that our local community has offered to fellow residents. The many donations of toys and financial contributions have helped to make the season a wonderful time for various families who would be unable to celebrate on their own. This is why we once again must ask for your help in preparing for this season. We will be accepting any donations that could be offered from November 1st until December 21st.

Here is how you can assist:

-  Donate new, unwrapped toys for ages from newborn to 17 years old. Some ideas for donations are toys, crafts, games, dolls, inflatable sleds, footballs and basketballs. We are always looking for ideas for the 11-17 age group.
-  Donate gift cards for local merchants to aid in purchasing items such as clothing and toys.
-  Donate financial contributions to assist in making certain wishes come true. Donations should be made to the Rye Firefighter Toy Bank.
-  Please drop off or mail any of your donations to the Rye Fire Station located at 555 Washington Road.
-  Toy Drop-off Locations will be located at: Rye Fire Station, Rye Town Hall, Rye Library, Rye Junior High, Rye Elementary, Rye Congregational Church, Saint Theresa Church, Seaport Fish, Atlantic Grill, Common Roots, Mainly Tubs and Rye Country Day School.

If you or someone you know could use some assistance for the holidays please contact the Rye Fire Department at (603) 964-6411

Thank You for Your Support

Town of Rye
RYE, NH 03870

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
US Postage Paid
Rye, NH
Permit #10

POSTAL CUSTOMER
RYE, NH 03870