

## **TOWN OF RYE – SELECT BOARD**

**Monday, February 22, 2021**

**4:00 p.m. – Via Zoom**

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

*Others Present: Town Administrator Becky Bergeron*

**4:00 p.m.**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Winslow called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

### **II. NON-PUBLIC SESSION (1) per RSA 91-A:3, II (d) Acquisition/Sale (2) per RSA 91-A:3, II (I) Legal Advice**

**At 4:00 p.m., Phil Winslow made a motion to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II (d) Acquisition. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Roll Call: Winslow – Yes, Epperson – Yes, Bradshaw - Yes.**

**At 4:24 p.m., Bill Epperson made a motion to come out of Non-Public Session. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. Roll Call: Winslow – Yes, Epperson – Yes, Bradshaw - Yes.**

**At 4:25 p.m., Phil Winslow made a motion to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II (d) Acquisition/Sale. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Roll Call: Winslow – Yes, Epperson – Yes, Bradshaw - Yes.**

**At 4:56 p.m., Bill Epperson made a motion to come out of Non-Public Session. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. Roll Call: Winslow – Yes, Epperson – Yes, Bradshaw - Yes.**

**At 4:56 p.m., Phil Winslow made a motion to go into Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II (I) Legal Advice. Seconded by Bill Epperson. Roll Call: Winslow – Yes, Epperson – Yes, Bradshaw - Yes.**

**At 6:05 p.m., Bill Epperson made a motion to come out of Non-Public Session. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. Roll Call: Winslow – Yes, Epperson – Yes, Bradshaw - Yes.**

**6:30 p.m. RECONVENE PUBLIC MEETING**

### **III. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

## **Reading of Attestation**

### Statement by Phil Winslow:

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

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video and other electronic means. We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone number: 646-558-8656 and Password:335211 or by clicking on the following website address: [www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com) ID #891 9030 7773.

- a) Public notice has been provided to the public for the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the Town of Rye website [town.rye.nh.us](http://town.rye.nh.us)
- a) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access.
- b) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.  
In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

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

If anyone has a problem accessing the meeting please email the Town Administrator at: [BBergeron@town.rye.nh.us](mailto:BBergeron@town.rye.nh.us)

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

### Roll call attendance of Select Board:

- Bill Epperson
- Mae Bradshaw
- Phil Winslow

*Note: The Selectmen stated where they were at home and stated that their spouses were in the home during the meeting.*

#### IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Winslow announced that the courts have released all parties in the lawsuit over the Parsonage land and the TD Bank. Both documents were posted on the Town Website on February 17, 2021. This allows the Town to acquire the TD Bank with 1.4 acres of land for use as town offices. It also allows the Town to retain ownership of the Parsonage property and provide the Library with the access and control of the land for their use and for the public. It further allows for the Conservation Commission to take ownership of the back 2.3 acres of the bank land to merge with the abutting Town Forest. Mr. Philbrick will be paid \$400,000 from the Library and \$300,000 from the Conservation Commission. The deed transfers will be completed on Thursday, February 25, 2021.

Selectman Epperson announced that consistent with the vote of 2018, the electorates gave permission to sell the Trolley Barn. The Board has decided to put it up for a sealed bid initially, with a reserve. This money will be used to renovate the TD Bank into offices and to start the renovation of the Town Hall.

Town Administrator Bergeron announced that initially the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office will be moving to the bank building. The second phase will be to move the assessing and hopefully, the finance department to that building as well, space allowing. That will allow for opening up the Building Inspector's Office and moving the planning and zoning office out of the hall. After, they will move on to the restoration of the second floor of Town Hall into meeting space.

Selectwoman Bradshaw announced that the Library Trustees will now be acquiring the open space where the Parsonage was located. They have agreed to work with the Town Center Committee and the Historic District Commission on the landscaping and park area. Part of the area will be used for library programing; however, the Trustees have agreed to leave part open for public use. This is a very important opportunity for the Town Center Committee to be working on the vision of this space with the Library Trustees.

Selectwoman Bradshaw also announced that the Conservation Commission will be holding a public hearing for the property behind the TD Bank.

#### V. PUBLIC COMMENT – (at the beginning of the meeting, for any comment by any Rye resident on any topic. Request time limit, up to 5 minutes each person.)

- **Paula Tsetsilas, 12 Rock Orchard Lane**, spoke regarding her disappointment of the latest developments of the swap. She pointed out that nowhere in the warrant article did it say that Conservation would be conveying the Parsonage for the 3.7 acres. If the exchange had been for the Rye Conservation Commission to hold this land, she

would not have voted in favor of this article. Her concern is that, due to the Conservation Commission's mission to control open space, they will now limit the potential for the uses of the land.

- **Steven Borne, 431 Wallis Road**, stated that he has a problem with the Library spending \$400,000 to buy what the Town already owns. He agrees with Paula that it is very disappointing. He also spoke about the Master Plan and the need for it to be totally rewritten. He felt that it should not be done incrementally, as is being done. He felt that the Town should put some money and outside resources behind the project and hire it out to an outside professional. It should also contain an implementation plan. He stressed the need for it to be done correctly.

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

- A. Parsons Field Application – Rye Lions Club Annual Car Show: Sunday, September 19, 2021 (Rain Date 9/26/21,) from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Also: requests waiver of the \$50/day fee for use of the field.**
- B. Email rec'd from Elizabeth Lantz re: her resignation from the Heritage Commission.**
- C. Letter rec'd from Bob Withington re: His interest in purchasing the Old Trolley Barn**

Chair Winslow asked that a letter be sent to Elizabeth Lantz thanking her for her services to the Town. He asked that Consent Agenda Item C be taken off for discussion.

**Motion by Phil Winslow to accept Consent Agenda Items A and B. Seconded by Bill Epperson.**

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

**Motion Passed.**

Chair Winslow asked Selectman Epperson to go over the process of selling the Trolley Barn.

Selectman Epperson stated that the 2018 Town Meeting gave the Board the authorization to sell the Trolley Barn. The proceeds will be used to rehab to TD Bank and to start on the rehab of the Town Hall. This will go before the Budget Committee as well. The idea will be to have a sealed bid process with a reserve on it. There will be a notification going out through the town website and/or the newspapers within the next two to three weeks with the details. He added that the property is in a single residential zone. He recommended that anyone interested in the property for anything other than a house, go to the ordinances under single resident districts for the permitted uses and the procedure to build something other than a single dwelling.

## **VII. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **A. Declaration of Restrictive Covenant of 575 Washington Road**

Chair Winslow explained that 575 Washington Road is the former Parsonage parcel. As stated earlier the parcel will be controlled by the Library Trustees. The Select Board has to authorize a Declaration of Restrictive Covenant.

Selectwoman Bradshaw read the Declaration of Restrictive Covenant.

*Know all men by these presents that the Town of Rye Municipal Cooperation having a principal place of business at the Rye Town Hall, 10 Central Road, Town of Rye, County of Rockingham, State of New Hampshire, 03870, acting through its duly authorized select board and pursuant to the Rockingham County Superior Court Order of February 16, 2021 and David Choate et al. versus Town of Rye et al. hereby submits the property described by Exhibit A; hereto, the property, to the following restrictive covenant. Property is situated in the Town of Rye, County of Rockingham, State of New Hampshire.*

- 1. The property shall be used for purposes related to the Rye Public Library and to be under the custody and management of the Trustees of the Rye Public Library, the Trustees, so that public access and use shall be provided to any open space therein, subject to the Trustees right to reasonably regulate said public access and use.*
- 2. The property or any portion thereof or interest therein shall not be conveyed without a town meeting vote and the written consent of the Library Trustees. Said consent, shall be recorded in the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds.*  
*(Exhibit A with property description follows.)*

**Motion by Phil Winslow to approve the Declaration of Restrictive Covenant and authorized the Select Board to sign the covenant. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. Roll Call Vote: Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw – Aye; Phil Winslow – Aye. Motion Passed.**

### **B. Memorial Day & July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday Celebrations**

Recreation Director Lee Arthur asked the Select Board their thoughts on the Memorial Day and 4<sup>th</sup> of July events. She reported that the usual vendors are reaching out to her for planning purposes. She pointed out that they will still be using the default budget at that time, so budgeting may be problematic. She was looking for some direction, as they will not be able to get a fireworks vendor if they wait too long.

Chair Winslow recognized the problem and opened it up to discussion.

Due to the unknowns of COVID-19 and the budget, it was decided that the Memorial Day Ceremony would be held virtually like it was done last year. Ms. Arthur stated that she will have more time this year to work on putting together something special.

Ms. Arthur explained the cost of the fireworks this year has increased by \$10,000. The vendor that had done it for years was a former Rye resident and did the event as a volunteer with the Town purchasing the fireworks. He will not be doing the event this year. She will have to get the RFP out by the end of March to secure a new vendor.

It was decided to reach out to other neighboring communities to ask what they are planning for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Also, Chair Winslow asked the Fire Chief to keep the Select Board apprised of what is happening with the vaccine. The Select Board will readdress this issue at their next meeting.

### **C. Chief Walsh – Discussion on Plans A & B for holding the Deliberative Session**

Chair Winslow asked Moderator Eaton to give the Select Board an update on SB2.

Moderator Eaton reported that SB2 has not passed. This prompted the Governor to issue his emergency order. He reminded the Board that the Governor's order was what they voted on about a month ago, when they set the Deliberative Session for June 5<sup>th</sup> and the election for July 13<sup>th</sup>. Because the Town has taken the steps provided by the Governor's Order and has done public notice of the Deliberative Session and the Election, it will not be affected by an action taken by the Legislation.

Chief Walsh talked to the Select Board regarding the problems with delaying the election until July and its effect on the town departments' budgets. He presented the Select Board with two plans for the Deliberative Session; Plan A, an indoor plan, and Plan B, an outdoor plan. Speaking in regards to Plan A, he proposed it to be held at the Rye Elementary School due to their ventilation system. He also picked the inside session due to the audio system needed for presentation and participation. He suggested that they could have people listen to the session over their car radio and Zoom. There could be a location for a person to speak about a warrant article. With both plans, he recommended having a company come in prior and after the session to spray and disinfect. He recommended changing the date to a time when the schools have their vacation week. They could do the preparation on the Friday for the Saturday session and then have the sanitation done on Sunday. He described that with both plans there will be the need to do a mock setup. He asked the Board to review the documents that he has provided them and to give serious consideration to having the indoor plan. He also asked them to consider changing the date. He felt that the Fire Chief, the Moderator and he could do this in a healthy way.

Chair Winslow asked the Police Chief, Fire Chief and the Public Works Director if there were things in their budget that they cannot do until the budget is passed that will severely restrict their ability to serve the needs of the residents.

Chief Cotreau stated that his projects that he is holding off on are in the area of training.

Public Works Director McCarthy responded that it is problematic for public works because they do a number of large purchases and projects. The largest one currently is to try to move the salt shed to its final phase of construction. It would mean that they could not even start the engineering until August and then it would have to go out to bid.

Chief Walsh reported that his training has already started because it was mandated by Police Standards and Training.

Selectwoman Bradshaw noted that the last day of school is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup>. Currently, the Deliberative Session is scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup>. She suggested that this will be problematic if they opt for the inside plan. She would prefer it to be outside, and even at that, she would like to see that people masked or not be allowed on the property. She also noted that outside under tents, it was estimated that they could set 108 people verses 60 in the gym.

Moderator Eaton stated that wearing masks is at the moderator's digression and that he is planning on mandating that requirement, whether the Select Board requires it or not.

Selectman Epperson stated that both plans are very well thought out. However, he feels that Plan A seems to fly in the face of what they are trying to do as far as Covid safety is concerned. If he has to make a choice, it would be Plan B outdoors. He added that it may be logistically a little harder, but probably will be the best idea. He has no issue with changing the dates.

Moderator Eaton pointed out that if they move the election up to June 8<sup>th</sup>, it would require the Deliberative Session he held at the end of April. The weather may be cold for having it outside, but it could be done.

Chair Winslow spoke about the three criteria of this discussion: 1.) The health and safety of the poll workers and the public; 2.) To ensure a democratic process; and 3.) The department heads being able to manage the business of their departments without an adopted budget. He noted that criteria 1 and 2 come down on the side of keeping the dates as they are already set. He recommended going to the side of safety by just keeping the dates as they are and going with Plan B outside.

Chief Walsh stated that whichever plan the Board decides on, he will take it to the Superintendent of the school for him to review with the School Board. Chief Walsh also stated that he would be happy to go to a school board meeting to discuss the plan with them.

Moderator Eaton reported that he and all the relevant department heads will be holding zoom meetings in the upcoming weeks to do the strategic planning.

Chair Winslow summed up the discussion stating that they will keep the dates as scheduled and that the Deliberative Session will be held outside. Hopefully, the department heads will work their magic and keep providing quality services with the budget they have.

Chief Walsh promised to start fine-tuning plan B and will present it to the Board within the next month with all the details.

## **VIII. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **A. Email rec'd from Steve Frost re: Seaweed Removal Proposal**

Chair Winslow reported that Mr. Frost has presented a proposal for seaweed removal for the north end of Jenness Beach. He asked Mr. Frost to give a summary of his suggestions.

Mr. Frost stated that the reason he is proposing the seaweed to be removed is because when it is left on the beach too long, it will rot and decompose. Last year, the smell of the decomposed seaweed was so bad that he did some research. He found out that decomposed seaweed releases a poisonous gas called hydrogen sulfide and that is what is being smelled along the coastline. He spoke to some of the neighbors and it can be smelt it as far back from the ocean as Drake Lane.

Chair Winslow commented that people who frequent the north end of Jenness Beach are fully aware of the odor and the contaminates. He asked Dennis McCarthy to address this issue and how it can be resolved.

Public Works Director McCarthy stated that it is problematic. He added that he cannot just go onto the beaches and start hauling material away. The approach to seaweed removal is very minimal. They take what is along the high-water line. They try not to go below that. Additionally, they do this with equipment that is designed to just remove the seaweed and does not disturb the coast itself, leaving the sand and stone. The problem with this location is that it is all stone. In order to remove the seaweed, you would have to remove a lot of the stone. In that case, the Town would have to have a DES permit. The other issue is where the material would go. It can't be moved to the transfer station because it would be just moving the smell and the problem to another area in town. Potentially, it would have to be transported to Turn Key, if they would take it. He summed up by stating that this is a very large project and these are some of the reasons it has not been done.

Mr. Frost responded that as the waves come in, the seaweed keeps getting pushed up into the rocks. If it was pulled off the beach more quickly, it would not get pushed up into the rocks and pile up as bad.

**James Rutman, Straw's Point**, stated that they live at the north end of the beach, the second house in at Straw's Point. He appreciates the fact that the stuff that gets lodged high up into the rocks cannot be removed. However, the reason it gets lodged in the rocks is because it is not removed and it keeps piling up and then a high tide pushes it up into the rocks. He asked that the

normal program, which ends about 100 feet from the end of the beach, be extended further in the sandy area. It is at an angle but could be done. He has also seen the front-end loader dump the seaweed back at their end of the beach, which makes that end of the beach have more seaweed. It has to be removed or taken to a part of the beach where there are no inhabitants.

Mr. McCarthy responded that typically his department does not dump the seaweed back in. In fact, he has told his people not to do it. They tend to do it if the truck is full or if they feel that the seaweed will be taken back out by the tide. That used to be a normal practice. He has also instructed his people to go as far north as the equipment will go safely. His people have stated that they are going to the limit of where the current equipment can go. He will continue to encourage them to push as far north as possible. As far as the barrier area is concerned, he stated that they try not to get down into the wet sand. He added that as far as the corner is concerned, that seaweed is not coming in slowly. It comes in and gets built up quite fast.

Selectman Epperson stated that he is at the beach three to four days a week. He has seen the seaweed accumulate over the years, but he has also seen it disappear by itself as well. He suggested that they really need to know the extent of the removal that Mr. McCarthy is talking about; what it is going to cost and who is going to do it.

Mr. McCarthy pointed out that they only do the beaches that they can get at with the equipment. They don't do the town beach because it is a stony beach and the equipment is not made to rake through that type of area.

Chair Winslow asked Mr. McCarthy to take a look at the cost to bring in a bucket loader during July and August when the problem seems to be the worst.

Mr. McCarthy responded that the bucket loader is already down at the beach when they are raking. The biggest cost will come from the damage to the beach, whether the DES will allow it and where to transport the material to. He will follow up with the DES process and get the costs together for the Board to review.

**B. Email rec'd from Alex Herlihy, RHS Museum Director, requesting the Town donate three doors and a mantle from the old Parsonage building to the museum**

Chair Winslow suggested that the Board approve this. He also suggested pictures be taken of the items and a receipt be received from Mr. Herlihy for the Town's records.

**Motion by Bill Epperson to approve the donation of three doors and a mantle from the old Parsonage building to the Town Museum. The Town will have pictures and a receipt for the items donated. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.**

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

**Motion Passed.**

**IX. NEW BUSINESS - None**

**X. OLD BUSINESS - None**

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Meeting Minutes**

**1. Meeting, Monday, February 8, 2021, 5:30 p.m. via Zoom**

The following corrections were noted:

- Page 3, Public Comment reads: Howard Kalet, Co-Chairman of the Rye Energy Committee: reported that ~~its~~ his understanding that when Verizon rolls out 5G (which could be as soon as the end of the year); phones that work on 4G will continue to work on 4G.
- It should read: Howard Kalet, Co-Chairman of the Rye Energy Committee: reported that it's his understanding that when Verizon rolls out 5G (which could be as soon as the end of the year); phones that work on 4G will continue to work on 4G.
- Page 5, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph reads: Representative Grote stated that there is no hearing schedule yet for this Bill.
- It should read: Representative Grote stated that there is no hearing scheduled yet for this Bill.
- Page 6, 2<sup>nd</sup> to the last paragraph reads: Representative Grote stated that usually a Bill like this doesn't have a lot of "~~leg~~", however it is important to state the Town's position.
- It should read: Representative Grote stated that usually a Bill like this doesn't have a lot of "legs", however it is important to state the Town's position.
- Page 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> to the last paragraph: the word irrecoverable should be unrecoverable
- Page 7, reads: Chief Cotreau and one of his lieutenants will be conducting a fire inspection ~~on~~ the building tomorrow.
- It should read: Chief Cotreau and one of his lieutenants will be conducting a fire inspection of the building tomorrow.
- Page 8, under Correspondence reads: Winslow asked that a picture be taken of the two pieces being donated and that a letter of receipt be signed by the ~~Historic~~ Society, as documentation for the Town's records.
- It should read: Winslow asked that a picture be taken of the two pieces being donated and that a letter of receipt be signed by the Historical Society, as documentation for the Town's records.

**Motion by Bill Epperson accept the meeting minutes of Monday, February 8, 2021, as amended. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.**

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

**Motion Passed.**

**2. Non-Public Session, Monday, February 8, 2021 (1) per RSA 91-A:3, II (I) Legal Advice**

**Motion by Mae Bradshaw to seal the non-public minutes of Monday, February 8, 2021.  
Seconded by Bill Epperson.  
Roll Call Vote: Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw – Aye; Phil Winslow – Aye.  
Motion Passed.**

**Motion by Bill Epperson to accept the non-public minutes of Monday, February 8, 2021 as written. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.  
Roll Call Vote: Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw – Aye; Phil Winslow – Aye.  
Motion Passed.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Bill Epperson to Adjourn at 7:58 p.m. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. Roll Call Vote: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw – Aye.  
Motion passed**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F. Ledger

2-22-21 Consent Item C

Bob Withington  
207 Market St.  
Portsmouth, N.H. 03801

Feb. 19, 2021

Select Board  
Town of Rye, NH

Greetings,

Now that the town has completed a deal for the former TD Bank, I believe it is time for further discussion on the sale of the Old Trolley Barn. Although not for the faint-hearted, I feel that purchasing the Trolley Barn is a great opportunity. I have done some preliminary investigation with subcontractors and have gotten an enthusiastic response about my ideas for the project. As my building in Portsmouth has been sold, and I must vacate April 30<sup>th</sup>, I have found temporary quarters for my business while I pursue the Trolley Barn and hopefully undertake its restoration. I am anxiously awaiting your price for the property so I can determine if it makes sense in light of the projected cost of restoration. I know I could make it a building to be proud of in the Village Center. I also think it is important not to totally remove all commercial vitality in the village, while, of course, still maintaining a country appeal. An antique shop would be ideal in my biased opinion. I also believe in the historical value of the building as its history and existence is a rare marker of the Portsmouth Electric Railroad. I will accentuate that history. That would be lost with a new residential home on the lot.

I congratulate you on your diligence with matters concerning the Town Hall, TD Bank, the Old Parsonage, and Library. Everyone should be satisfied with the outcome. I have learned a lot about the love that the people of Rye have for their town. I very much appreciate that and would like to be part of such a civic minded group, irregardless of the contentions. I have NH small town roots and I recognize the passion. Please keep me apprised of the process with the Trolley Barn. I am interested.

My best, Bob

2-22-21 Corvus. A

**Janice Ireland**

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**From:** Steve Frost <thewoodlot@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 16, 2021 10:28 AM  
**To:** Janice Ireland  
**Subject:** Item for Feb. 22 Select Board Meeting  
**Attachments:** seaweedremovalproposal.pdf

Janice,

Attached is the proposal I would like to present to the Select Board at the February 22 meeting. Could you send me an email back to let me know you have received this?

Also, Dennis McCarthy should be included in this discussion. Should I contact him or is that something that you handle? (He has seen the proposal already.)

Several neighbors would like to attend the Zoom meeting and possibly speak on this issue. Do you have specific instructions I can pass on to them on how to attend virtually?

Thanks for your help!

Steve Frost  
32 Old Beach Road, Rye NH

Phone: 603-867-8957  
Email: thewoodlot@hotmail.com

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

# **Seaweed Removal Proposal**

**Submitted by Stephen Frost**

**32 Old Beach Road, Rye, NH**

**September 30, 2020**



## The Issue

The seaweed removal on Jenness Beach is presently inadequate to meet the needs of all beach residents and users of the beach.



## Overview

The Town of Rye currently removes seaweed from May to September on the State Beach end of Jenness Beach but not the Straw's Point end of the beach. We believe this may be the result of a request from a prior resident many decades ago but have found that current residents wholeheartedly desire the seaweed to be removed.

When seaweed is not removed high tides push the large masses of seaweed up to the high tide line where it builds up, gets compacted and begins to rot and smell as it remains in place for extended periods of times.

Many residents of Rye who live near the beach have reported that the unpleasant rotting seaweed odor is so strong that they are forced to close windows in their homes. Avoiding the overwhelming smell results in reduced use of yards, porches, decks, and most significantly, the beach.

Additionally, beach visitors notice the large areas of beach covered by the carpets of seaweed and adjust by increasing beach density in the cleaner areas. The crowding results in less room to spread out towels, raise umbrellas, walk dogs, take leisurely strolls, access the water to swim or surf, and engage in beach games that are so often a part of a full beach going experience.

Both residents and visitors would welcome the increased beach cleaning.



## Current Seaweed Cleanup Operations

Currently, the town of Rye's Department of Public Works is using a machine (Barber Sea Rake) borrowed from the state of New Hampshire to clean certain areas of the beach from seaweed.

The collected seaweed is trucked over to the fill and brush areas of the Recycling Center and mixed in with the large pile of loam. **(NOTE: the mixing of seaweed and loam is duplicating what the farmers of Rye did in the colonial era. The mixing of seaweed into the loam creates a "super soil" which is excellent for growing plants and vegetables.)** This "Super Soil" is made available to the residents of the town of Rye at no charge.

However, this machine is ineffective in raking up deeper clumps of seaweed. In speaking to the Northeast product manager for Barber, she reported these machines are good for depths of 3 to 4 inches of seaweed, but not really good for anything over that depth. The Rye DPW employees using the machine have found that the tines of the machine tend to ride over the seaweed areas which are thicker and deeper and not pick up the seaweed.

The product manager from Barber reported that other municipalities use a bucket loader to remove the thicker areas of seaweed from their beaches. Speaking to the Town of Rye's Director of Public Works, Dennis McCarthy it was decided that the Barber Sea Rake would not be able to remove thicker areas of seaweed. A bucket loader or backhoe would be needed for this. **(NOTE: The DPW already owns these machines.)** However, Dennis would want the approval of the Select Board for this as additional labor and costs will need to be allocated to this task.



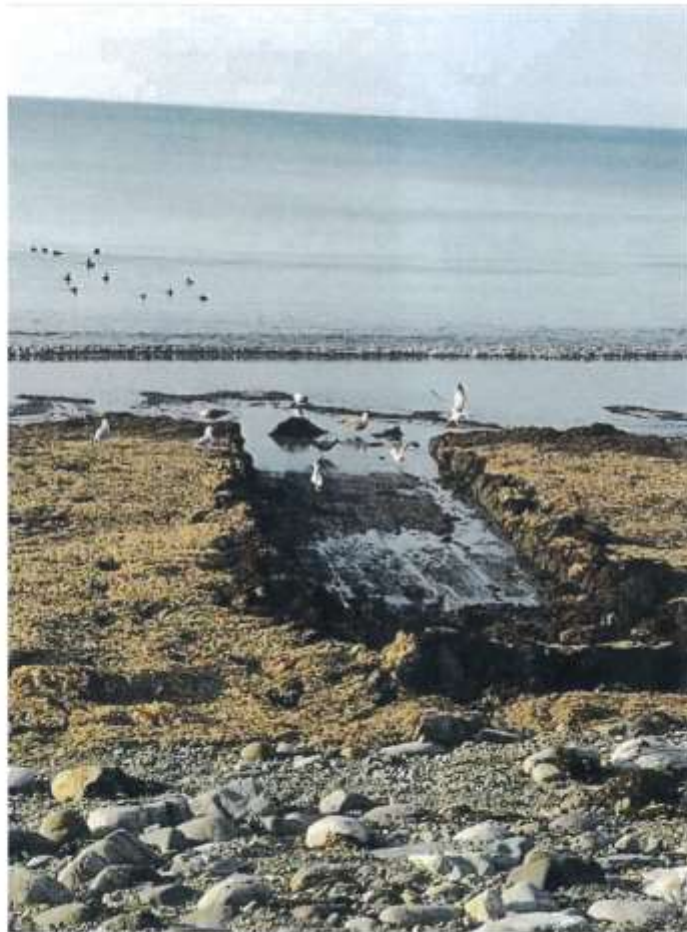
## Proposal

We propose the Select Board of the Town of Rye authorize the Director of Public Works to allocate equipment and labor to remove the large masses of seaweed on an as needed basis during the time period from May 1st through September 30th of each year. We understand that the timing of low tides will determine when the work can be done, but we feel that this request will benefit the citizens of the Town of Rye and the many visitors who enjoy the beaches of Rye in the summer.



## Letters Of Support

The following letters of support have been included in this proposal.



**From:** Tara Rutman  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 3:50 PM  
**To:** Steve Frost  
**Subject:** Seawood Removal-Rye

Dear Members of the Select Board,

We are in total and full support of the seawood removal proposal submitted by our neighbor Steve Frost. We are located at 60 Straws Point in Rye.

Thank you for your consideration,

Best, Tara and Morgan Rutman

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**From:** Pat Breslin  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2021 1:49 PM  
**To:** Steve Frost  
**Cc:** 'Pat Breslin'; 'Frank J Breslin'  
**Subject:** Support for removal of large piles of seaweed from Jenness Beach

Dear Steve,

We support your efforts to ask the Select Board to authorize removal of the seaweed from the north end of Jenness Beach. The multiple huge piles of this malodorous, fly infested, unsightly matter impair our ability to use the outdoor space on our own property. On occasion during the summer, we are forced to close all windows to keep the smell from invading our house. These piles occur on a regular basis throughout the year but are most offensive during the Spring and Summer. The Rye DPW has made efforts to remove this seaweed with some success. We hope that a more rigorous and regularly scheduled plan will be authorized.

Thank you,

Pat and Frank Breslin

28 Old Beach Road

Rye, NH

**From:** Melanie Logan  
**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2021 4:03 PM  
**To:** Steve Frost  
**Cc:** Melanie Logan  
**Subject:** Seaweed Removal Proposal

Town of Rye,

I am fully in favor of and enthusiastically supportive of the Seaweed Removal Proposal from Steve Frost. I very much appreciate his effort on behalf of our community, as well as, your effort and consideration towards implementation of his proposal.

Thank you,

Melanie Logan  
36 Old Beach Road

2-22-21 Corres. B

Janice Ireland

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**From:** Alex Herlihy <alexherlihy@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 19, 2021 8:34 AM  
**To:** Janice Ireland  
**Subject:** SB

To - Select Board  
From Alex Herlihy, RHS  
RE: items from apartment building  
Date: Feb. 18, 2021

The town museum requests donation of the following items stored in trolley barn:  
3 doors - marked  
1 mantle - marked

Becky Bergeron was with me when i indicated this request.  
RHS will coordinate with DPW to have them bring the items to the museum

Thank you very much