

**CITY OF RYE
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Scott D. Pickup, City Manager

SUBJECT: Enclosures - Council Packet

DATE: August 31, 2012

Enclosed with this memorandum are the following items:

- 8-15 Notice from the Committee to Save the Bird Homestead and the Benefit Committee regarding an event *Farmer's Bounty at the Meeting House: A Farm-to-Table Gala* to be held on Saturday, September 22, 2012 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Rye Meeting House.
- 8-16 Notice of Rye Golf Club Candidate Forum and Membership meeting to be held on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at Whitby Castle.
- 8-17 Legal Department Update from the Corporation Counsel dated August 31, 2012.
- 8-18 Notice of the results of the 2012 Boat Basin Election.
- 8-19 Meeting notice for the week of September 4, 2012 is available on the City website www.ryeny.gov under Calendar.

The Committee to Save the Bird Homestead and the Benefit Committee invite the community to Farmer's Bounty at the Meeting House: A Farm-to-Table Gala on Saturday, September 22 from 6-8 p.m.



The event will celebrate the historic roots of the Bird Homestead as an intact, small farm on the banks of the Blind Brook estuary, which is a unique survivor in our area. The property includes an 1835 Greek revival farmhouse, a 19th-century barn, woodworking shop, rope room, and chicken coop.

TABLE Local Market of Bedford Hills will cater the event, using fresh, seasonal ingredients harvested locally. The present day farm-to-table movement reflects the way the Bird family lived for multiple generations in the 19th and 20th centuries. The family grew all their own vegetables and fruit, kept dozens of chickens for fresh eggs, caught fish and crabs, and harvested oysters, clams, and mussels from Milton Harbor.

The gala will benefit both the Bird Homestead and the Meeting House, two adjacent historic, environmental, and educational sites on Milton Road. This event follows up on the very successful "Sunset at the Meeting House" fundraiser held last September.

Guests will enjoy drinks, hors d'oeuvres from local, organic sources, artisanal and farmstead cheeses, and charcuterie. Tickets are \$85 per person. For further information see Facebook Meeting House-Bird Homestead, email birdhomestead.meetinghouse@gmail.com, or call 967-0099.



Rye Golf Club
Candidate Forum/Membership Meeting

DATE: Wednesday, September 12, 2012

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Whitby Castle

PURPOSE: A forum will be held to meet the 2012 candidates for the Rye Golf Club Commission. The forum will be followed by an annual open membership meeting.

Please see attached full profiles of each candidate. Hope to see you all there!



Patrick Dooley

I have been a comprehensive member of RGC since 1994 along with my family.

I am a corporate lawyer with a law firm.

I am proud of the quality of the services offered to members by the Club, and I see part of my responsibility as maintaining and improving those services in order to enhance the overall experience of our members. The introduction of the inexpensive summertime Sunday dinner, the addition of the second terrace at Whitby and the continued improvement of the golf and pool facilities are examples of enhancements over the last few years that have benefited our membership. However, it is equally important to be sensitive to the costs imposed on members in providing those services, particularly given the economic pressures that we all face.

I believe that the most critical issue facing RGC in the next several years is to balance the provision of high-quality services and accessibility to the Rye community with the need to operate on a balanced budget. Because RGC is an 'enterprise fund', it is required to be self-funding and receives no money from the City of Rye. In the last few years, the goal of providing quality services at an affordable price has been particularly challenging. We have struggled to keep dues increases at a minimum, while still making sure that we have sufficient revenue to maintain the Club's facilities at a proper level. As a Commission member, I will continue to focus on making fiscally responsible decisions which balance the need to maintain an attractive Club for current and potential members while seeking to minimize cost increases.

A second issue of importance is the need to enhance communication with the members. While I think there is currently the opportunity for open communication between the members and the Commission, I want to consider additional methods to enhance discussion between the Commission and members – including by encouraging more members to attend Commission meetings and considering occasional "open forum" meetings in addition to our regularly monthly Commission meetings where the Commission can hear directly from members. We have already taken some steps in this regard, including the posting of Committee minutes and the public joint meeting held in June with the City Council.

RGC is a public treasure that truly distinguishes our City. It fosters community and enhances both the perception and the reality of Rye as a desirable place to live and raise a family. If reelected, I will continue to try, in a financially prudent manner, to maintain and improve our Club for all members.



Chris O'Brien

Occupation: Electrical Contractor

Number of Years at Rye Golf Club: 15 years

During my first year of serving as a commissioner for Rye Golf Club, I have thoroughly enjoyed my term. I take my role of giving the members a voice seriously. Not only have I attended every meeting, but I also consider myself a very active member of the board.

With each new issue that arises I always do my best to voice the concerns of the members as effectively as possible so the issue can be resolved. I think it is important to keep Rye Golf Club affordable for all Rye residents, as this is a recreational facility rather than something that adds to our real estate value.

I urge all members to come out and vote, as it's very important that we all have a say in Rye Golf Club. I'm looking forward to meeting you at the Meet & Greet session that will be held at the pool during the third week of August as well as on Wednesday, September 12 at 7pm for the candidate forum.



Angela Sposato

My name is Angela Sposato and I am running for the RGC Commission. I have been a member since I was 10 years old under my parents and on my own for over 25 years. I am an active Golf member, participated on many club committees and served as President and liaison for the ladies association.

My career provides me the flexibility to use the club frequently on both the weekdays and weekends, which allows me to see the opportunities and challenges faced by our club and our membership. As a Human Resource Professional I feel my background and expertise would be a good fit and an asset to the Commission and the Club.

I am very proud to be a member of our club and I am excited to help it evolve further as we create opportunities and meet the challenges unique to our club and community.



Arthur Tiedemann

Eighth Grade Science Teacher

Port Chester – Rye Free Union School District

Rye Golf Club member since 2001 (11 – consecutive years and counting)

Rye Golf Club represents my family’s “oasis” during the summer months. We anticipate the opening of the pool on Memorial Day weekend with great excitement and dread the pools closing the week after Labor Day, as this signals the end of summer and a return to academia. I believe that RGC is a premier facility comparable to the “private” country clubs in the area and represents a similar retreat from the rigors of daily life for the citizens of Rye, NY and the surrounding communities.

The club facilities are conveniently located, easily accessible, and well maintained. I believe the RGC Commission is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring the maintenance of the facility, improvements to the club policies and facility, and providing the members with the best possible experience while keeping the club accessible (at a financial level) to all members. As a member of the RGC Commission, I will keep the interests of the membership at the forefront in regard to improvements, recommendations for change, and any conflicts that may arise. As a “family pool” member for the past 11 – years, and the Pool Director in 2006, I understand that RGC Members have concerns from time to time in regard to facility improvements, maintenance, and the daily operations of the club. Many of these concerns are merely the result of poor communication and a general lack of understanding between the membership and management. As a nearly daily visitor to the club, I would be accessible to the members and would provide a positive means of communication between the membership, the commission and the RGC Management.

The RGC Membership is the driving force that keeps RGC the great experience that it is. We all like to compare RGC to the private country clubs in the area, but RGC is unique. RGC offers many membership options, often at a logistical disadvantage for management. These varied levels are a selling point and result in an increase in overall memberships. In a time when country club memberships are declining industry wide, a change in the membership categories, which will restrict current members, seems ill advised. Therefore, as a member of the RGC commission, I will be an advocate for the continued membership categories that provide the greatest amount of accessibility and affordability for anyone interested in being an RGC member.

My familiarity of the RGC facility and its operation will enable me to provide a voice for the RGC membership to improve all aspects of the “club experience.” My fresh insight on the commission will foster greater communication between the general membership and the RGC commission, resulting in positive changes to the facilities, a sense of pride and “ownership” on the part of club members, and ultimately an increase in club membership and financial stability in the future.

**CITY OF RYE
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Honorable Mayor and Rye City Council
FROM: Kristen K. Wilson, Corporation Counsel
SUBJECT: Litigation Update
DATE: August 31, 2012

TAX CERTIORARI
CARROLL v. CITY OF RYE

Post-trial briefs have been submitted and the Judge's site visit has occurred.

THE TOWN OF RYE AND THE RYE TOWN PARK COMMISSION v. THE ASSESSOR and Board of Assessment Review of the CITY OF RYE

The City filed its opposition papers and also cross-moved for summary judgment. The Petitioner has asked for an additional two weeks to reply and oppose our cross motion.

WESTCHESTER JOINT WATER WORKS v. CITY OF RYE

Counsel for Westchester Joint Water Works and the City of Rye have both filed a notice of appeal.

LITIGATION

BEAVER SWAMP BROOK – (DEC Administrative proceeding)

The City and its consultants met with the Town/Village of Harrison and its consultants to discuss the discrepancies in the hydrologic analyses performed in 2010. The City is waiting to hear back from Harrison as to whether Harrison will provide certain data to the City for verification of the flood storage capacity at the Project Home Run site.

BASSETT v. CITY OF RYE

The plaintiff has filed a notice of appeal of the decision of Judge Berliner to the Appellate Division, Second Department. The Notice of Appeal was filed within the required time after Notice of Entry was served.

CASPI v. CITY OF RYE

The deposition of Lt. Verille and the expert witnesses are still to be conducted. The next court conference is September 6, 2012.

DELLI PAOLI V. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Board of Appeals reaffirmed the Board of Architectural Review's decision to deny the application at their May meeting.

PANETTA v. PLANNING COMMISSION (appeal)

The City's Brief in Opposition has been filed. The matter is fully submitted before the Appellate Division, Second Department. We are waiting a date for oral argument.

PANETTA v. PLANNING COMMISSION (declaratory judgment/42 U.S.C. 1983 claim)

A discovery schedule has been agreed upon by both parties.

RUNES v. BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW and CITY ASSESSOR

An Article 78 Petition has been filed by Richard Runes of 3 Kirby Lane North seeking to overturn the April 12, 2011 decision of the small claims hearing officer, JHO Luke M. Charde, Jr. who determined that the assessment on Mr. Runes' property was supported by the evidence put forth by the City.

BUTLER v. PLANNING COMMISSION

The City has filed an appeal with the Appellate Division, Second Department in this case in order to protect the City's interests. The City has six months to perfect the appeal.

BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE IVES AT RYE v. CITY OF RYE

The City has served its Answer with Affirmative Defenses.

CITY COURT

Routine calendar with no unusual dispositions.

Respectfully submitted,



Kristen K. Wilson
Corporation Counsel

KKW/dfn

CITY OF RYE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Scott Pickup, City Manager
Peter T. Fox, Boat Basin Supervisor

FROM: Dawn F. Nodarse, City Clerk

SUBJECT: De Pauw Municipal Boat Basin Commission
and Nominating Committee Election

DATE: August 29, 2012

The following are the results of the Boat Basin Election:

Envelopes Received	67
Ballots Cast	61
Invalid Ballots	6

The election results for two representatives to the De Pauw Municipal Boat Basin Commission are (two open seats):

Candidates	# of Votes Received
Richard Dempsey	58
Greg Gavlik	58

The election results for one member to the Nominating Committee:

Candidates	# of Votes Received
Ford Winters	60



Dawn F. Nodarse
City Clerk