

## **Summary**

### **Rhinebeck Regular Town Board Meeting**

### **Monday, July 28, 2025**

For more information regarding this meeting's agenda and resolutions, go to Rhinebeck Town Government Agenda webpage at <https://ecode360.com/RH0960/documents/Agendas>. Scroll down and click on the **Town Board** (TB) meeting agenda for July 28, 2025.

Being that we were unable to attend this meeting, the information in this summary came from the agenda, *The Daily Catch* and the PANDA video of the TB meeting 07/28/2025.

Present:       Supervisor Elizabeth Spinzia  
                  Deputy Supervisor Chauncey Walker  
                  Councilperson Allan Scherr  
                  Councilperson Chad Kleitsch  
                  Councilperson Dana Peterson

### **Town Board Discussion Items**

**Tab 25** – Proposal from E. Bender to create additional parking spaces at the Rhinecliff Hotel along Grinnell Street. (See parking plan sketch on page 66 of the agenda.) As a result of the hotel losing its long-term parking lease from Amtrak, Elijah Bender is asking for the TB's support and feedback, prior to presenting it to the Planning Board, allowing for additional spaces on the hotel's property. A Rhinecliff resident expressed his concerns, claiming that allowing for additional spaces to accommodate 137-person events would create a parking mess in the hamlet.

**Tab 24** – Dutchess County DPW submitted a reconfiguration plan at the intersection of Mount Rutsen and River Roads. Supervisor Spinzia explained the need to have the intersection at Mount Rutsen and River Roads altered to a T-intersection to make it safer. Portions of the existing lanes on Mt. Rutsen would be covered with grass and shrubs. Highway Superintendent Bob Wyant explained that it would be a Dutchess County project. The TB approved the resolution. (See page 66 for the Preliminary Sketch of Intersection Improvements – River Rd. (CR 103) at Mt. Rutsen Rd.)

**Tab 26** – Proposed Local Law: Rhinecliff Parking Plan - The TB continued its discussion of the parking plan for the Hamlet of Rhinecliff. The proposal will include the following:

- Twenty-two on-street public parking spaces and 15 spaces in the town lot at Shatzell and Charles Streets.
- Three-hour parking limits on Shatzell Avenue and along two sections of Kelly Street, while the 15-minute parking zone would remain in front of the post office.
- The Town lot would be used for three-hour parking during the day and overnight parking for a fee (permits required) between 10:00 PM. and 8:00 AM.
- A no parking zone parking would be established on Charles Street, Orchard Drive, Charles Street, Corning Street, Hutton Street, Loftus Road, Grinnell Street, Dutchess Terrace, and part of Kelly Street.

- The Town will study the possibility of making Orchard Drive a “yield street,” which would allow it to be a two-way street with public parking. However, this plan will cost \$20,000 and was not budgeted in this year’s budget. Spinzia recommended that the “yield street” study be budgeted in the 2026 budget where it could be reviewed and adopted if found practical for the parking issue in Rhinecliff.

A resident from Rhinecliff expressed his concern about the proposal, claiming that banning parking on Orchard Drive would create a parking mess for residents having family gatherings. The resident also expressed the opinion that Amtrak should be doing something about the parking problem in the hamlet, including the lack of parking for the Rhinecliff Hotel, since it was Amtrak who created the issue in the first place.

Councilperson Dana Peterson stated that the “incremental” proposal, prior to the “yield street” study, is not a permanent solution but would allow for enforceable parking codification that would address the parking issue in the hamlet. She was “not particularly in favor of the current proposal” but would support the “yield street” version (keeping Orchard Drive as a two-way street with parking). The other four members of the TB were in support of the current plan with a study of the “yield street” proposal to be budgeted for and conducted in 2026.

Highway Superintendent, Bob Wyant, speaking as a resident, explained that there are 300 cars using the Amtrak parking lots and that Amtrak will begin doing renovation work on these lots later this year. In order to do the work, Amtrak will be closing sections of the lots in incremental stages which will decrease the number of available spaces even more. When this happens, commuters will be parking all over the hamlet. Because of this, there is an immediate need for enforceable parking codes to be enacted by the TB.

## **Resolutions**

The following is a summary of the major resolutions addressed and passed. Other resolutions addressed by the board may be viewed on the town’s website as noted in the opening paragraph.

**Resolution 2025-171** – Engineering Study for Creating a Community Solar Array at the Town of Rhinebeck Landfill Site - The TB approved hiring Municipal Solar Partners (MSP), a non-profit firm, to conduct an engineering study, at no cost, assessing the feasibility at creating a community solar array (farm) at the town-owned 188-acre parcel (old town landfill) on Stone Church Road.

**Resolution 2025-172** – Contract with LaBella Engineering Firm to Conduct Annual Post Closing Monitoring of the Town Landfill. - The TB granted Supervisor Spinzia the authority to sign a contract with LaBella to conduct the annual post-closure monitoring of the town landfill at a cost of \$2,000; plus laboratory fees of \$3,650; and the required 2025 Annual Report at the cost of \$1,700. LaBella will monitor any explosive gas emissions, groundwater quality, condition of landfill cap, and gas vents. The annual report of its findings will be prepared and submitted no later than early 2026.

**Resolution 2025-175** – Approve Disposal and Destruction of Municipal (Town) Records – Pursuant to NYS law, the TB approved the destruction of records deemed no longer necessary for retention. Among the documents approved for destruction are: TB meeting notes, applications for copies of birth, death and marriage, tax rolls and documents, code book updates, and bookkeeping. (For a complete list, go to the TB agenda for this meeting (pages 13-19)).

**Resolution 2025-179** – Appoint New Zoning Board of Appeals Member. - The TB approved the appointment of Cara Kewel to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring on December 31, 2029.

**Resolution 2025-183** – Recreation Event – “Movies Under the Stars” - The TB approved the Recreation Committee’s request to organize a free community/family event “Movies Under the Stars” to be held at the Thompson-Mazzarella Park. The program will be facilitated and promoted by the Town’s Recreation Committee, Starr Library and the Lions Club.

**Resolution 2025-184** – Approve Skate Park Events at the Thompson Mazzarella Park - The TB approved a request from The Board Room Skate Shop to hold two more community skate jam events to be held at the TM Park on September 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> (11:00 AM - 4:00 PM).

**Resolution 2025-189** – Adherence to Pool Rules - Any patron or member refusing to follow pool rules can be asked to leave the pool area without a refund of the cost of the daily pass. Violators could also have their season pass privileges revoked without refund.

### **Announcements**

Councilperson Chad Kleitsch announced that the bocce court is now open at the Thompson-Mazzarella Park. While there will be a rake available at the court, players will have to bring their own equipment.

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The next TB meeting will be held on Monday, August 25, 2025 at 6:00 PM. At this meeting the following will be discussed:

- A code that will deal with people who do not obtain building permits for projects on their property or who do not follow what was permitted in their permit approval.
- revisions to the Short-Term Rental Law.
- A final vote on the proposed parking regulations for the Hamlet of Rhinecliff.
- Spinzia read a letter from Richard Creed (Creed Ankony Farm) where he and other working farm owners are asking the Town to support agro-tourism that would help to improve their businesses. The TB was receptive to exploring such policies.

### **Public Comments**

- Local real-estate agent Wendy Maitland spoke in opposition to the Town of Rhinebeck’s civil suit against the Towns of Hyde Park and Clinton regarding the Six Senses project. She asked that the town hold a public meeting whereby the TB and the public can openly discuss this project and suit.
- Local resident, Deb Hecht informed the TB that the Starr Library has pickle ball and bocce equipment that it can lend to people who want to use such at the town park.

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