

Summary
Town of Rhinebeck Town Board Regular Meeting
Monday, April 27, 2026

For more information regarding this meeting's agenda and all the resolutions, go to Rhinebeck Town Government Agenda webpage at <https://ecode360.com/RH0960/document/753251078.pdf>

Present:	Supervisor Elizabeth Spinzia	espinzia@rhinebeckny.gov
	Deputy Supervisor Debbie Hecht	dhecht@rhinebeckny.gov
	Councilperson Allan Scherr	ascherr@rhinebeckny.gov
	Councilperson Dana Colleen Peterson	dcpeterson@rhinebeckny.gov
	Councilperson Chad Kleitsch	ckleitsch@rhinebeckny.gov

Presentation

Rhinebeck 7th Grade Community Fridge at Thompson-Mazzarella Park

Students from the Bulkley Middle School presented information about their project for installing a Community Fridge (perishable foods) at the Thompson-Mazzarella Park. For more information on this project, scroll down the agenda to pages 3 – 24 . (A website is being created.)

Announcements

2025 Planning Board Report from Planning 4 Places – Prepared by the Town Planner, Jim Levy, the “2025 Annual Report, Prepared for the Town of Rhinebeck Planning Board,” is a comprehensive report containing the following topics:

- Planning Board Membership (p. 2)
- Roles and Responsibilities (p. 2)
- Total Pre-Conference Discussions (p. 3)
- New Applications Reviewed by the Planning Board (p. 4)
- 2025 Statistics (Meetings & Public Hearing Sessions) (p.5)
- Project Referrals (p. 6)
- New Applications (p. 7)
- Larger Projects (p. 8)
- General Findings (p. 9)
- Planning Board Process and Procedures (pp. 10-13)

Outlook for 2026

- Anticipated Workload (p. 15)

Resolutions

The following is a summary of the main resolutions passed by the Town Board TB at this meeting.

Resolution 2026-117 – Resolution Approving Grant Loan to Starr Library

In the November, 2025 general election, Rhinebeck voters approved Town of Rhinebeck Proposition 2 of 2025 to increase the taxpayer funded budget of the Starr Library by \$82,000 to the sum of \$546,800 annually. Proposition 2 of 2025 would not take effect until adoption of the 2027 Town Budget, which will occur later this year. Due to the fact that the Starr Library subsequently adopted a 2026 budget erroneously reflecting taxpayer funding (Proposition 2) in the amount of \$546,800, it caused a 2026 budget shortfall of \$82,000.

The Starr Library Board and Executive Director requested that the Town Board approve a gift to the library of no less than \$72,000 to defray their budget shortfall that would negatively affect library and community services to Rhinebeck residents.

After an extended and sometimes tense discussion between members and supporters of the Starr Library with the Supervisor and members of the Town Board, a compromise on this matter could not be reached. The Town Board then moved to approve the resolution to appropriate supplemental funding to the library in the form of a grant loan of \$72,000, drawn from the General Fund Balance, to be repaid over a period of three years. (The vote was 3 to 1 in favor of the resolution, with Councilperson Chad Kleitsch voting nay and Deputy Supervisor Deb Hecht having recused herself from this issue.) If the Starr Library approves this loan, the library would be required to repay the grant loan in three equal payments of \$24,000 on or before March 1, 2027, March 1, 2028, and March 1, 2029.

Resolution 2026-125 – Approve Appeal Defense, Litigation Plan and Budget (*Binetti, et. al., v. Rhinebeck Planning Board, et. al.*)

As a result of the Planning Board's (PB) decision, granting a preliminary plat approval to Karl Dunkenberg for the Aklderkill conservation subdivision on his property, adjacent property owners, Brian Binetti and Joseph Ely (Plaintiffs), commenced an Article 78 lawsuit challenging the PB's decision. The Dutchess County Supreme Court upheld the PB's decision, whereupon the plaintiffs commenced an appeal before the NYS Appellate Division, Second Department.

Being that the TB and the PB wish to defend this appeal, the TB authorized town attorneys, Grant and Lyons to defend this appeal at a cost not to exceed \$9,750.

Resolution 2026-131 – Parking Plan at Rhinecliff Hotel

Being that the Rhinecliff Hotel has a Special Use Permit approval from the PB to operate, contingent on providing 22 parking spaces for its customers, it needs additional parking to meet the designated number required in the Permit. Supervisor Spinzia assisted the hotel owner, Elijah Bender, at procuring a lease from CSX/Amtrak for some additional parking, but still needed are eight additional spaces. Bender has submitted a plan to the PB that would designate the spaces "on

site” along Grinnell Street. The TB endorsed this plan and recommended that the PB accept this proposal for the Special Use permit approval.

Resolution 2026-133 – Approve Rhinebeck Community Day Event

The TB approved the Recreation Department’s request for \$7,500 to hold the first annual Rhinebeck Community Day event at the Thompson-Mazzarella Park. The event free, and open to all will be held on Saturday, September 26th from 1:00 – 6:00 PM, rain or shine.

Resolution 2026-137 – Electronics Waste Recycling at Rhinebeck Transfer Station

The TB approved a free program, allowing E-Waste to provide quarterly collections of e-waste (electronic) equipment. The program will begin this June, date to be determined. For a complete list of acceptable and non-acceptable items, scroll down the agenda page to pp. 79 – 82.

Resolution 22026- 138 – Approve 2026 Fall Foliage Marathon

The TB approved the application for the 2026 Fall Foliage Marathon submitted by Fleet Feet and Chili Max. The event will take place on Saturday, September 26th within the Town of Rhinebeck. For a complete list of the requirements to be fulfilled by the event organizers, scroll down to p. 83.

Resolution 2026-140 – Authorize Sloop Clearwater to Dock at Rhinecliff

The TB approved a revised schedule for the Sloop Clearwater to dock at Rhinecliff on July 21st - 22nd.

Resolution 2026-141 - Hydrogeological Study at Rhinebeck Villas Site

Due to neighbors’ concerns that the hotel project on 9G would cause high commercial use of the aquifer groundwater supply and impact the integrity of their residential wells, the TB agreed that this concern should be further investigated to determine its validity. Therefore, the TB retroactively agreed to engage the services of AlphaGeoscience to conduct an initial analysis study of this project at a cost of \$2,000. To view the findings of this study, scroll down to the last four pages of the agenda.

Resolution 2026-143 – Approve Restoration of Veterans Section at Town Cemetery

Being that the Friends of Rhinebeck Cemetery received a grant from the Frost Memorial Fund of \$33,500, to cover the cost of renovating the entire veterans’ section at the town cemetery, the TB authorized the Town Supervisor to sign any necessary contract to begin this project.

The next TB meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM