

Summary
Town of Rhinebeck Town Board Regular Meeting
Monday, March 23, 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/753240000.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

Announcements

The April 13, 2026 Town Board Meeting will be cancelled. Next Meeting is Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

Discussion Items

Residents, living along Rhinecliff Road, including students from the Bulkley Middle School, came to the meeting to listen to and share their input regarding the proposed River to Trail (Alta) Project, spearheaded by Councilperson Dana Colleen Peterson. To view the map of the proposed trail, scroll down to the last page of the TB's agenda for this meeting.

The proposed trail would begin in Rhinecliff, with the main part beginning at the intersection of Charles Street and Orchard Drive. The 10' shared-use path would continue along the right side of Rhinecliff Road and cross over to the left (north) side before Ryan Road. The path would then cross a realigned River Road intersection, continuing to the paved walkway at a crossing by Starr Library.

- Middle School students shared their researched comments in support of the trail project, stating that walking or biking to and from Rhinecliff and the Village of Rhinebeck would become safer.
- Some of the directly affected residents stated that they did not receive postcards announcing the proposed project and asked that better means of communication be established.
- Some residents expressed their concerns that the lack of adequate stormwater drainage would cause damage to the trail as well as their properties
- Some residents, while supporting the project, requested that the speed limit along Rhinecliff road be reduced to 35 MPH.
- It should be noted that if the grant proposal is not approved, this project will be cancelled.

The Board emphasized that this was just the beginning of the planning process for this path. Community input could lead to many changes to the final outcome.

Resolutions

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

Resolution 2026-106 – Recreation Turf Field Terms of Use - To read all the regulations for turf field use, scroll down to pages 5-6.

Resolution 2026-111 – Appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) - Kathryn Clark was appointed to the ZBA to fill the unexpired term of Brian Normoyle who has resigned from the board. Clark’s term will begin May 21, 2026 and will expire on December 31, 2027.

Resolution 2026-116 – Resolution Requesting Home Rule Legislation in the NYS Legislature - If approved by the NYS Legislature, the Town would be authorized to enact local legislation imposing a Hotel Occupancy Tax within the Town and Village of Rhinebeck. This tax would continue for three years, after which the TB would need to request that it be reauthorized by the State Legislature.

Main Elements of the Occupancy Tax

- Town of Rhinebeck would impose a 3% Occupancy Tax on hotels, motels and short-term rentals, in both the village and town, used for stays of 30 days or less.
- The proceeds from the tax would be deposited in the Town’s general fund.
- The tax would provide a much-needed source of revenue to be used to repair the South Parsonage Street bridge as well as the sidewalks around town hall, making the sidewalks ADA compatible.
- In a separate, non-agenda resolution, the TB ruled that after three years, 30% of any remaining, unused revenue from the two projects would be shared with the Village.

Resolution 2026-120 – Resolution calling on the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Rhinebeck to join the Rhinebeck Town Board in their petition to the State Legislation to authorize the collection of the Occupancy Tax.

Additional Information

Additional information, not discussed at this TB meeting, can be found at <https://www.rhinebeckny.gov> .

Topics

- Rhinecliff Train Station Renovation
- River to Trail (Alta) Project
- Newly Adopted Parking Regulations
- Amended Short Term Rental (Local Law 2 of 2025)

The next TB meeting will be held on Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6:00 PM.