

Summary
Rhinebeck Regular Town Board Meeting
Monday, September 23, 2024

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 to **Town Board** and choose the date and agenda you wish to view.

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

Announcements

- The 2024 August Supervisor's Financial Reports have been submitted and are available to view on the Town's Website.
- All dogs living or harbored in Rhinebeck must be registered for a yearly license.
- The Town Board will hold a Special Meeting/Workshop to review the NYS Environmental Quality Act (SEQRA) report for the Locust Hill (workforce housing application) on Tuesday, September 24th at 5 PM in the Rhinebeck Town Hall.

Resolutions

The Town Board (TB) addressed 15 resolutions, passing all unanimously. Below is a summary of the major resolutions addressed and passed by the TB. The other resolutions passed may be viewed on the town's website noted in the opening paragraph.

Resolution 2024-325 Dutchess County IMA Contract for Reimbursement of Granicus

Supervisor Spinzia announced that the Town will be reimbursed by the County for the cost of the Granicus software program that will allow the Town to monitor short term rentals (STRs).

Resolution 2024-326 - Schedule Special Meeting (Workshops) to present the 2025 town budget

Supervisor Spinzia announced that there will be workshops on the following dates addressing the 2025 town budget: October 3rd, 8th, 10th, 17th, 22nd, 24th, and 29th. These workshops will be held at 12:00 PM at the town hall. The public is invited to attend.

Resolution 2024-327 - Reschedule the November 6, 2024 Town Board Meeting

Due to a conflict with the Town Court for use of the hall space, the scheduled November 6th TB meeting has been rescheduled for November 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

Resolution 2024-330 – Friends of Rhinebeck Volunteer Grave Cleaning Day

The TB authorized a request from the Friends of Rhinebeck Cemetery to hold a volunteer grave cleaning day in the historic section of the cemetery on September 28, 2024 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM.

Resolution 2024-332 - Cemetery Natural Burial Ground Grant

Town of Rhinebeck owns and operates a natural burial ground. Being that the site has been certified by the Green Burial Council at the 2nd Tier, it is the Town's goal to continue its commitment to conservation, preservation, and the best ecological burial practices.

Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley's 2024 Ecological Restoration Grant RFP calls for projects that restore local ecosystems, through restoring and planting indigenous plants. The TB has authorized the Cemetery Administrator (Suzanne Kelly) to write and submit a proposal for the 2024 grant cycle, due October 25, 2024.

Resolution 2024-334 - Recreation Children's Fall Festival

The Town's Recreation Director has planned a Children's Fall Festival to be held at Thompson Mazarella Park on Saturday October 19, 2024, 10:00 AM - 2 :00 PM. The TB has authorized the director to hold the festival.

Resolution 2024-335 - Hudson 7 Clean Drinking Water Support Resolution

The TB unanimously authorized its support for Hudson 7's request to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) urging it to adopt and enforce measures that will address the impacts of PCB contamination to drinking water quality resulting from the Hudson River PCB Cleanup.

Background Information

General Electric and the PCB Contamination

From 1947-1977, the General Electric company dumped polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) into the Hudson River from two capacitor manufacturing plants located in the towns of Fort Edward and Hudson Falls, N.Y.

PCBs are man-made, bio-accumulative, persistent organic pollutants that have been linked to a wide variety of adverse health effects, including, among others: cancers, liver, and kidney disorders; reduced birth weight, conception rates, and live birth rates; persistent and significant deficits in neurological development, including visual recognition, short-term memory, and learning; and developmental problems due to interference with thyroid hormone levels.

PCBs are still found at dangerous levels throughout the Hudson River ecosystem in soils and sediments within the river and the surrounding floodplains; in the living tissues of wildlife, from

low-level organisms to larger animals such as birds and fish; and, periodically, suspended in the river itself or in the air.

As a result of GE's PCB contamination, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated a 200-mile stretch of the Hudson River south from Fort Edward to New York Harbor as a Superfund Site in 1984.

In 2002, the EPA selected a two-part cleanup plan addressing in-river sediments in the Upper Hudson River, a 40-mile stretch of the Hudson River between Fort Edward and the Federal Dam at Troy, which called for targeted dredging of PCB-contaminated sediment from the river bottom, followed by an extended period of natural recovery. The goal of this cleanup (dredging) plan was to reduce the dangerous health risks to humans and wildlife living in and near the Hudson River and reestablish the ecological and economic health of the Hudson River.

The federal Superfund Law requires EPA to conduct a study every five years to evaluate the implementation and performance of the remedy to determine if it is protective of human health and the environment. Being that PCBs are known to move through the drinking water basin, the draft of the third five-year review report, however, fails to address the impacts PCBs may have on drinking water and the potential risks to people who get their drinking water from the Hudson River.

The EPA's review report also fails to adequately address scientific data and analysis showing that there has been little improvement. PCB concentrations in Upper Hudson River fish and sediment are not declining as anticipated by EPA.

The understanding of the relationship between how much PCB contamination was left behind in the sediments and the fish population needs to be updated to determine if further remedial work is necessary.

The data from available studies supports the conclusion that the selected remedy is not protective of human health and the environment. The human health and ecological risks are well in excess of EPA's acceptable risk ranges and will not be in the acceptable range for the foreseeable future.

The Hudson 7

The Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council, known as the "Hudson 7," is a coalition of five (Hudson River) drinking water providers serving seven municipalities in Dutchess and Ulster Counties counties (Towns of Rhinebeck, Hyde Park, Poughkeepsie, Esopus and Lloyd, City of Poughkeepsie, and Village of Rhinebeck). The Hudson 7 was formed in 2018 and has worked together identifying shared water quality concerns and advocated for improved drinking water protection for the 150,000 residents who depend on the Hudson for their source of drinking water.

Hudson 7 urges the EPA adopt a "not protective determination" in the third five-year review and acknowledge the failure of the Upper Hudson River remedy to meet the goals and objectives of

the cleanup. Hudson 7 proposes that the EPA begin the process of assessing additional remedial actions to protect the environment and our vulnerable communities along the Hudson River.

Hudson 7 also urges the EPA to amend its draft of the third five-year review by acknowledging use of the Hudson River for drinking water and to review and analyze the impacts of PCB contamination on drinking water quality.

To enhance its recommendations, Hudson 7 will be sending a copy of its resolution to the following agencies and departments.

- US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 2 and Hudson River Field Office
- New York State Governor Kathy Hochul
- NYS Office of the Attorney General
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- Hudson River Estuary Management Advisory Committee (“HREMAC”)
- NYS Department of Health
- Ulster County Department of Health
- Dutchess County Department of Health

For more information regarding Hudson 7, go to its website at <https://www.hudson7.org> .

Public Comments

A resident spoke about the upcoming fall marathon, scheduled for Sunday, October 13th. He asked the TB to address the concerns of Mill Road residents as to the lack of any information or notifications from the event organizers. Due to the South Mill Road closure, there is increased traffic flow on Mill Road. Therefore, there are increased safety concerns for runners and drivers using Mill Road during the event. Supervisor Spinzia stated that she would reach out to the event organizers and would keep the speaker apprised of these concerns.

The next TB meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM.