

Summary
Town of Rhinebeck Re-Organizational Meeting
Consent Agenda
Monday, January 6, 2025

For more information regarding this meeting's agenda and resolutions, go to Rhinebeck Town Government Agenda webpage at <https://ecode360.com/RH0960/document/753116429.pdf>.

Resolutions

The Town Board (TB) addressed 30 resolutions, passing all 30 unanimously. Below is a summary of the major resolutions addressed and passed by the TB. Other resolutions addressed by the board may be viewed on the town's website noted in the opening paragraph.

Resolution No. 2025-002 – 2025 Schedule of TB Meetings

The Rhinebeck TB will hold its regular meetings for 2025 on the following dates:

January 27	August 25
February 10	September 29 (5 th Monday)
February 24	October 27
March 10	November 24
March 24	December 8
April 28	
May 12 (2 nd Monday)	
June 9 (2 nd Monday)	
July 28	

January 5, 2026 (Annual Organizational Meeting)
January 5, 2026 (First Regular Board Meeting)

Resolution No. 2025-007 – Salary Schedule

Council Person	2024 Salary	2025 Salary
	\$12,000	\$13,500
Supervisor	\$63,000	\$67,725

Resolution No. 2025-009 – Appointment of Attorney to the Town

The TB appointed Warren Replansky, Esq., as the town attorney who will provide general legal advice at a rate of \$225 per hour and \$250 per hour for litigation services.

Resolution No. 2025-010 – Appointment of Planning and Zoning Attorney

The TB appointed John, Lyons, Esq., for the purpose of providing legal advice to the Town on planning and zoning matters at a rate of \$175 per hour.

Resolution No. 2025-011 – Appointment of Tax Certiorari & Zoning Prosecution Attorney

The TB appointed Drake Loeb, PLLC for the purpose of handling tax certiorari (appeal) matters and zoning violations at a rate of \$225 per hour for legal and litigation services (state court) and \$300 per hour (federal court).

Resolution No. 2025-012 – Appointment of Town Special Prosecutor

The TB appointed Amanda Miller, Esq., for the position of Special Prosecutor for the Town of Rhinebeck Justice Court at a rate of \$140 per hour. The Special Prosecutor will handle the following legal matters:

- Violations, including Penal Law violations, with the exception of violations that involve incidents of Domestic Violence and those involving incidents occurring on school property;
- Town of Rhinebeck Code violations, including Town Building and Zoning Code violations; and
- Vehicle and Traffic Law Infractions issued by the New York State Police, Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, New York State Park Police, Department of Environmental Conservation, and any other law enforcement agency.

Resolution No. 2025-013 – Appointment of Town Special Prosecutor

The TB appointed Kerri Yamashita, Esq., for the position of Special Prosecutor for the Town of Rhinebeck Justice Court at a rate of \$140 per hour. As Special Prosecutor, she will represent the Town with regard to prosecution of vehicle and traffic law violations, zoning violations, and all other matters as set forth in the resolution of the Town Board and pursuant to the authorization of Dutchess County District Attorney from 2019.

Resolution No. 2025-014 – Appointment of Land Use Attorney

The TB has retained the law firm of Zarin & Steinmetz, LLP, to provide legal input and services at protecting the town's local resources.

Resolution No. 2025-015 – Reappointment to the Conservation Advisory Board

The TB reappointed George Baker as a member of the CAB and now chairperson of the CAB.

Resolution No. 2025-017 – Appointment of Planning/Zoning Consulting Engineer (CPL)

The TB has retained the firm of CPL (Engineering & Planning) for planning and zoning projects in 2025 at various rates for specific services ranging from \$75.00 to \$215.00 per hour.

Resolution No. 2025-018 – Appointment to Rhinebeck Historic and Archaeological Preservation Advisory Committee (HAPAC)

The TB has reappointed Kathy Hammer and Warren Temple Smith as co-chairs to the HAPAC for a one-year term and appointed Martin Rosenblum to the committee for a three-year term.

Resolution No. 2025-020 - Appointment of Recreation Advisory Committee (RAC)

The TB reappointed Tom Connolly as chair and Michael DeCola as co-chair of the RAC for 2025. Village Board Trustee Eleanor Pupko will act as the liaison to this committee.

Resolution No. 2025-021 – Appointment of Planning Board Member and Chairperson

The TB reappointed Melodye Moore as a member and chairperson of the Planning Board. The member's term is for seven years, ending December 31, 2031. The chairperson's term is for one year, ending December 31, 2025.

Resolution No. 2025-022 – Appointment of Fire Inspectors

The TB reappointed Edmund Matuk and Bob DeLuca as the town's fire inspectors for 2025.

Resolution No. 2025-024 - Appointment of Workforce Housing (WHC) Chairperson

The TB reappointed Jonathan Mensch as a member and chairperson of the WHC for 2025.

Resolution No. 2025-026 – Appointment of Town Historian and Deputy Historian

The TB appointed Susan Fitzgerald as the town's historian and Michael Frazier as the deputy historian for 2025.

Resolution No. 2025-027 – Appointment of Cemetery Committee Members and Chairperson

The TB reappointed Gina Fox, Michael Haggerty, Suzanne Kelly and Robert Long as committee members and Suzanne Kelly as Chairperson of the Cemetery Committee for 2025.

Resolution No. 2025-029 – Appointment of Member and Chairperson to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

The TB reappointed Kathryn Clark as a (5-year term) member and Scott Bergin as chairperson (one-year term) of the ZBA for 2025.

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

Resolutions

The Town Board (TB) addressed 9 resolutions, passing all 9 unanimously. Below is a summary of the major resolutions addressed and passed by the TB. Other resolutions addressed by the board may be viewed on the town's website noted in the opening paragraph.

Resolution 2025-031 – Walking Paths (Skate Park) at Town Recreation Park

The TB determined that three new paths were needed to move pedestrians around the TTSM Park. D&D Excavating Co. was chosen since it submitted the lowest bid (\$13,425.00) for work including materials and labor. This amount will come from the Capital project 115 – TT/SM Skate Park.

Resolution 2025-033 – Approve Cemetery Fee Revisions

The TB reviewed and approved the proposed revised fee schedule submitted by the Town Cemetery Committee.

Burial Plots	Resident	Non-Resident (Ulster, Dutchess & Columbia Counties)	Non-Resident (Outside Ulster, Dutchess, Columbia Counties)
Adult Conventional (3.5'x10' = 35sf)	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$5,000
Adult Natural (5' x 10' = 50sf)	\$1,650	\$3,300	\$6,600
Cremation Plot Conventional (3' x 3' = 9sf)	\$550	\$1,100	\$2,200
Cremation Plot Conventional (3.5' x 5' = 17.5sf)	\$625	\$1,250	\$2,500
Cremation Natural (5' x 5' = 25sf)	\$825	\$1,650	\$3,300

Resolution 2025-035 – Short Term Rental (STR) Fee Schedule

The TB reviewed and approved the following fee schedule for STR's.

Application	Fee
Single Room	\$100.00
Accessory Dwelling Unit	\$250.00

Additional Fees

Fire Inspection	\$100.00
ZEO & CEO Inspection	\$200.00
Escrow for Neighbor Notification	\$200.00
Additional Special Use Permit For Properties in Rhinecliff	\$300.00

Councilperson Dana Peterson proposed that the TB reexamine the new STR code to consider allowing residents who do not operate an STR to temporarily rent their home as an STR for a week or two while they would be away without going through the process and fees. Supervisor Spinzia said that Dana could come back to the TB with more information on her proposal at a later date. *(See Public Comments section to read a resident's response at the meeting to Councilperson Peterson's proposal.)*

Discussion Items

Update on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Program – Supervisor Spinzia discussed the upcoming CCA electricity supply agreement renewal with Joule Community Power. The current agreement runs through June, 2025. Residents have expressed concern that Central Hudson has been charging a rate lower than that of JCP which is at 12 cents a kWh. However, later in the meeting, Eleanor Pupko raised the fact that CH imposes a high delivery charge making it more costly for the consumer. Supervisor Spinzia stated that this matter would be discussed at future TB meetings.

Rhinecliff Parking – Supervisor Spinzia discussed how she and Highway Superintendent, Bob Wyant, have met with representatives from LaBella, who are examining the parking (commuter) issue in the Hamlet of Rhinecliff. (*) There have been recommendations of making one or more of the streets one way and offering Rhinecliff residents an opportunity to purchase town parking permits allowing their vehicles to be parked overnight in the Rhinecliff (town) parking lot. There would be no overnight street parking allowed anywhere in the hamlet. She also mentioned that the Town will possibly hold a meeting in Rhinecliff to discuss these recommendations sometime in February.

(*) For more information on this topic, see Resolution 2024-357 from the November 12th Town Board Meeting Summary.

DC Sheriff Patrols - Supervisor Spinzia announced that she has spoken with the DC Sheriff's Department to add extra traffic/parking patrols in the Hamlet of Rhinecliff as well as at the Thompson/Mazzarella Park to enforce the town's (dog) leash law. She also stated that the Town will have to hire a new dog control officer to, especially, monitor unleashed dogs in the park.

South Mill Road Closure - Supervisor Spinzia announced that the County will release a report this April on its findings and recommendations as to the future of South Mill Road (County Rt. 85)

Good Cause Eviction

On April 20, 2024, New York eviction laws were updated with the Good Cause Eviction Law which dramatically impacts the rights and obligations of landlords and tenants in New York by limiting evictions, requiring lease renewals, and capping rent increases for most market-rate apartments in New York City, and other villages, towns, or cities state-wide. Good Cause will apply to all new leases and renewal leases, unless exempted, in New York City and in any other villages, towns, or cities that chooses to opt-in to the law.¹

Supervisor Spinzia mentioned that the Village Board is reviewing whether or not to adopt this law and that the TB, with input from the community, will begin to review whether the Town will opt in the Good Cause Eviction Law.

Fall Foliage Marathon

Due to a number of complaints and concerns as to the use of Mill Road for the Fall Foliage Run, Supervisor Spinzia announced that she has been in contact with residents of Mill Road and Matt [Len?], organizer of the marathon. Concerns shared included the safety of both runners and car drivers and the lack of communication with local residents. Supervisor Spinzia weighed in asking whether or not the Town actually benefits from having this or any such event using its roads.

Councilperson Dana Peterson expressed her support for the marathon, claiming that the event is a lovely thing to offer and is a source of civic pride for the town, making Rhinebeck a great place to live. She pointed out that other local events like the DC Fair and Sheep and Wool Festival place a larger burden on residents by creating days of traffic congestion, whereas the marathon is completed in four hours or less. She also mentioned that those involved in the event shop and dine at the establishments in the village adding a true benefit to the local economy. She will reach out to the local Chamber of Commerce to inquire what boost, if any, the local economy experiences so the board can assess what demands the town would need to present to the organizers to ensure the event is net gain or net neutral for the town.

A local resident reiterated the lack of communication from the event organizers, as well as the safety/liability issue along Mill Road. The speaker reminded the TB that Matt [Len?] had appeared at the March 25, 2024 TB meeting and was informed of these issues. He responded that he would address them for the October event. However, prior to the event, there was neither any communication/notifications with the Mill Road residents, nor any safety measures added along Mill Road, specifically, by the Van Steenburgh Bridge.

¹ “New York Enacts Good Cause Eviction Law,” Nixon Peabody Legal Solutions, April 22, 2024, found at <https://www.nixonpeabody.com/insights/alerts/2024/04/22/new-york-enacts-good-cause-eviction-law>

Supervisor Spinzia stated that she would reach out and invite Matt [Len?] and the residents of Mill Road to a discussion on this matter as part of the agenda at the February TB meeting.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

In response to Councilperson Dana Peterson's proposal that the TB consider allowing residents to rent their homes while they are away on vacation for a week or two without going through the required process and fees, a local resident voiced a concern to this proposal. What would keep other property owners from requesting other personally motivated exemptions which could then chip away at the integrity and intention of the code? She noted that the TB had worked hard on this new code and it should be "lived with" for a while before any changes are made to it.

Another resident inquired as to what was happening with the Locust Hill WHP? Supervisor Spinzia explained that the Town needs to create a code for the Workforce Housing Overlay District and will need the input from the Planning Board addressing any variances and recommendations that will be added to the wording of the code.

The next TB meeting will be held on Monday, January 27, 2025 at 6:00 PM.