

**Rhinebeck Democrats Club**  
**February 23, 2022**  
**Minutes**

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March 2, 2022

**Members:**

Jeff Romano*	Victor Britton*	Linda Kagan	Roger Quon
David Weiner*	Betty Leigh*	Erin Sanchez	
John Rossi*	Julie Zito*	Joann Gelb	
Diane Britton*	Eleanor Pupko*	Susan Ragusa	

\*in attendance

**Time and Location**

The meeting started at approximately 6:05 p.m. and was conducted virtually.

**Meeting Packet**

Prior to the meeting attendees were provided a copy of the agenda (Attachment I), an updated draft of club by-laws and minutes from the February 15, 2022 meeting.

**Discussion**

David facilitated the meeting and welcomed Betty to our second RDC meeting. Betty briefly introduced herself to attendees.

David asked John to say a few words relative to the role of the individuals comprising our two club meetings to date. John explained the functions advanced by Jeff, David and himself created the essential framework of the organization but a larger group was needed to “hammer out” the by-laws. Jeff, David and John agreed this task would be best managed by a group, including themselves, of 10-14 individuals. Growing membership would commence with the completion of by-laws. David thanked John for these comments and assured the attendees more discussion regarding membership, planning meetings etc. would resume later in the meeting.

Minutes from the 2/15/22 meeting were accepted.

David initiated discussion specific to the most current copy of the bylaws, which were furnished in advance of tonight’s meeting. David walked the group through the revisions now in place from the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting as well as sections not previously discussed. There was generally wide support for the revisions stemming from the previous meeting and the remaining sections. Members, however, did vocalize questions and comments to several sections including; softening Article VI, quorums, voting methods (in-person, digital), timelines for casting votes (mirror NYS general elections?), establishing a steering committee, club officers and candidate endorsements. David promised to furnish an updated version of the bylaws prior to the club’s next meeting.

David encouraged attendees to offer their thoughts and suggestions for future meeting topics and club initiatives. Members did not hesitate to assert their concerns covering a wide range of local government initiatives progressing through the Village and Town such as the \$800K bond

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for artificial turfs, developer plans for Mulberry Street, developer plans for Rock Ledge, \$500K of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds for our Town yet no opportunity for public input. The local governing response is to 'create a committee' solution – e.g., the Village Comprehensive Planning Committee and the Town's special committee to review Rock Ledge. These committees do little to assuage resident concerns for density, overbuilding and taxes.

David felt current leadership is sadly unaware of the substantial concern residents have about traffic and density. David, and others, thought club initiatives could include community surveys and as warranted, lead petitioning drives. Jeff envisioned the club, as it grows, inviting chairs of parties in Dutchess County to forums.

### **Adjournment**

At approximately 7:25 p.m. David thanked everyone for attending and formally closed the meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

TBD

Minutes respectively submitted by.

John Rossi

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**Attachment I**

DRAFT  
AGENDA  
RHINEBECK DEMOCRATS CLUB  
2/23/2022  
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

- Comments/Questions from Attendees
  - Role of current club attendees
  - Adding members
  - Planning meetings
- Review of changes to Draft Bylaws from prior meeting (David)
- Review of 2/15/22 Minutes
- Continuation of presentation of draft bylaws (David)
  - Discussion of each article with the group
  - Vote to approve or modify Bylaws
- Suggestions for meeting topics and initiatives (Jeff)
- Discussion of next organizational meeting agenda (John)
  - Vote on Bylaws if needed
  - Election of officers
- Adjournment (David)

David will facilitate the meeting. John will record minutes.