**Summary**

**Rhinebeck Regular Board Meeting**

**Monday, March 11, 2024**

For more information regarding this meeting’s agenda, go to Rhinebeck Town Government Agenda webpage at <https://ecode360.com/RH0960/documents/Agendas>. Scroll down to Town Board and choose the agenda which you want to view.

**Major Items to be Reported**

**D. Public Hearing**

1. Continuation of Resolution 2024-169 – Revised Noise Ordinance. Due to recommended additions to the proposed noise ordinance, the public hearing has been extended to the March 25th TB meeting. (No comments from the public.)
2. Referendum extending term of office for Town Supervisor and Highway Superintendent. Due to some minor amendments to the referendum, public comments have been extended to the March 25th TB meeting. (**Tab 1** Local law X of 2024)

**Comments**

* Shirley Stone asked about any benefits to town taxpayers per this referendum. Elizabeth Spinzia (ES) replied that most of the towns (North East, Millerton, for example) have done this and it is more about future town supervisors not having to deal with an election every two years since such elections are draining.
* Julie Zito inquired as to where she could find more information about the supervisor’s duties. ES responded that such could be found on the Town’s website or in NYS Town law.

**F. Resolutions (including Board discussion and public comment)**

* Tighe & Bond Extra-Territorial Water District Formation Contract. ES responded that there are residential areas in the town that rely upon Village water for domestic use. The Village cannot hold these residents to infrastructure repair costs. Town Board (TB) is proposing that Tighe & Bond do a preliminary study and create a map outlining five districts within the town using Village water. It will be proposed that once the study is done, public hearing(s) will be held addressing a resolution that would require town residents within these districts to pay for such infrastructure repair costs. (**Tab 3 -** 2024-170)
* Establish Historic Preservation Award. HAPAC would like to choose a local house owner who has done exemplary work at restoring & preserving historic home. (**Tab 17 –** 2024-184)
* CEC Grant Funding Application. The town will be using the grant money to purchase an all electric vehicle for employee use. (**Tab 19** – 2024-186 )

**H. Discussion Issues**

* Dog Leash Law. Due to a number of residents being intimidated and bitten by unleashed dogs, as well as the presence of dog waste on the soccer fields at the Thompson/Mazzarella Park (TMP), the TB is moving to have stricter fines imposed on owners of unleashed dogs using the park. (**Tab 25)**
* Proposed Draft for Short Term Rental Law (STR). There was much discussion regarding this proposal. (**Tab 26)**

According to ES:

* There are from 1900 to 2000 eligible homes in the Town for STR status.
* Any home in the town currently using its space as a STR is illegal.
* No weekend renters!
* The Town wants to prevent commercial use.
* There are no current penalties for illegal STR use. The new code would contain penalties for first time and repeated offenders.
* The new code would have sections requiring:
1. Owner to live at premise.
2. Notify neighbors.
3. Legal accessory entrance.
4. Residents of Rhinecliff (Rhinecliff Overlay District) will have to apply to the town’s Planning Board for approval.
* On March 25th, a public hearing will be scheduled for residents to provide comments.
* ES stated that the new STR law can be found on the Town’s website. While it has been posted, it is difficult to locate. If one wants to review the draft of the proposed law, go to the Town’s main webpage. Scroll down to 3/08/2024, March 11th Town Board meeting and agenda. Click on that page. On the agenda page, scroll down to page 65 where the proposed draft can be found.

**Comments**

* A Rhinecliff resident presented a complaint that there are three STR’s located on her street and the problem she has had with them. The owners of these houses are from out of state.
* Another resident stated that she had no issues with the homeowners currently using space as a STR, since it provided economic support to the village’s commercial businesses.
* Another resident inquired as to whether the new STR code will have a cap on the number of permits that the Town will grant for STR use. ES responded that this will have to be discussed by the TB.

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* The last item discussed was an upcoming plan for the installation of a “Community Solar” (farm) using the Town’s landfill site on Old Stone Church Road. This matter will be discussed at a future meeting.

Next TB meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 25th at 6:00 pm.