

Summary
Rhinebeck Regular Town Board Meeting
Monday, January 27, 2025

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
 Councilperson Dana Peterson

Announcements

County/Town Tax Bills were mailed on 1/17 and are due, without penalty, by 2/28/25.

Discussion Items

Supervisor Spinzia moved the agenda, allowing for the discussion items to be presented first before addressing the resolutions.

Historic Preservation Handbook

Katherine Ember, Founding Principal of Planning4Places (community planning specialists), presented the final draft of the *Town of Rhinebeck Historical and Archaeological Handbook*. The handbook is a 48-page detailed report outlining how property owners in the town can voluntarily work at preserving the town's historic heritage through guided maintenance and repair of historic properties.

Along with Planning4Places, Jim Levy (Town Planner), Kathy Hammer and Warren Temple Smith (both on the Historic and Archaeological Preservation Advisory Committee), Marissa Marvelli (Historic Preservation Specialist), Nancy V. Kelly (Town Historian Emerita), Susan Kelly Fitzgerald (Town Historian), and members of the Rhinebeck Town Board, all contributed to the research and preparation of this handbook.

The handbook will eventually be posted on the town's website homepage, but in the meantime, can be found on the agenda site for this (01/27/2025) meeting.

Update on Hillside Fire Department

Supervisor Spinzia announced that the Hillside Fire Station, having served the towns of Rhinebeck and Hyde Park since 1939, will be closing sometime later this year due to declining volunteer

enrollment. The station chief hopes to keep the building open and used as part of a merger with the Rhinebeck Fire Department.

Fall Foliage Marathon

Led by Supervisor Spinzia, the TB discussed ongoing issues regarding the Fall Foliage Marathon. Spinzia stated that there have been numerous complaints over the years regarding the recipients of resulting charity donations, the inconvenience of road closings, the lack of notification of the event, and safety issues for both runners and vehicles using the marathon route, especially along Mill Road.

Marathon organizer, Matthew Linick, was present and explained that proceeds from the event go to the Michael J. Fox Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to research and new treatments for Parkinson's disease. Additional proceeds go to Northern Dutchess Hospital. When pressed by Supervisor Spinzia as to how much of the proceeds went to these charities, Linick was vague stating that in the past \$2,500 had been raised while in another year \$40,000 was raised.

A resident of Mill Road asked why the proceeds of the event went to the Michael J. Fox foundation and the local, for-profit hospital. Wouldn't it be better, she asked, if the proceeds went to a local charity such as the area food bank? Linick responded that the donations from the race could be given to any agency.

Board member Dana Peterson clarified that the Northern Dutchess Hospital Foundation and not the hospital was the beneficiary of the shared proceeds, explaining that the hospital foundation helps local residents with medical expenses.

Another Mill Road resident reminded Linick that when he last appeared at the March 25, 2024 TB meeting, he was informed of the lack of notification to area residents and the safety issues along Mill Road. Linick responded that he would address them for the October, 2024 event. However, neither was there any communication/notifications with the Mill Road residents prior to the event, nor were any safety measures added along Mill Road, specifically by the Van Steenburgh Bridge, on the day of the event.

TB members, along with most members of the community in attendance, expressed their reluctance to cancel the town's involvement with this marathon and agreed that the notification to residents, the implementation of safety measures, along with the idea of a donation to one of the town's programs, will be addressed by town and event organizers.

Resolutions

The Town Board (TB) addressed 17 resolutions, passing all 17 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 2025-042 - Approve Recreation Department Winter Festival Entertainment

The TB approved a resolution allowing the Town Recreation Director to hire Mark Rust to provide family musical entertainment during the Children's Winter Festival, scheduled on Saturday, February 8, 2025 between 1:00 and 4:00 PM. The town cost for the entertainment is \$550.00, to be taken from the allocated fund (\$2,000.00) for the event.

Resolution 2025-045 – Annual 284 Agreement for the Expenditure of (Town) Highway Monies

The TB approved the recommendation from the Highway Superintendent describing the repairs and expenditures on the following town roads for 2025:

- **General Repairs** - The sum of \$809,791.00 shall be set aside to be expended for the primary work and general repairs on 55.95 miles of town highways, including sluices, culverts and bridges having a span of less than five feet and on “renewals thereof.”
- **Permanent Improvements** - The following sums shall be set aside to be expended for the permanent improvement of the following town highways:
 1. Hilee Hill Road – Repairs on this road shall be expended not over the sum of \$83,970.
 2. Ackert Hook Road – Repairs on this road shall be expended not over the sum of \$83,090.
 3. Cove Road - Repairs on this road shall be expended not over the sum of \$49,660.00.
(Note. The work on Cove Road might be held up or mitigated pending the county's decision on how to address the current closure on South Mill Road
 4. Ann Drive - Repairs on this road shall be expended not over the sum of \$40,550.
 5. To Be Determined – Repairs on drainage work, catch basin work, preparing surfaces for resurfacing at a cost of \$175,000.

Resolution 2025-048 – Appointments to Board of Assessment

The TB approved the appointment of Gina Fox to the Board of Assessment Review with a term ending on September 30, 2028, and the appointment of Mark Farber to the Board of Assessment Review to fill the term ending on September 30, 2029.

Resolution 2025-049 - Appointment to Conservation Advisory Board

The TB approved the appointment of Vicente de la Vega to the Conservation Advisory Board (CAB) with a term ending 12/31/2028.

The next TB meeting will be held on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM.