

Minutes of the Village of Rhinebeck
Comprehensive Plan
Thursday, June 8th, 2023

The June 8th, 2023 meeting was called to order by Matt Johnston at 6:07pm at Village Hall, 76 East Market Street, Rhinebeck, NY with the following members in attendance:

Matt Johnston, Chair
Michele Grieg (Consultant)
Louis Turpin
Deirdre Burns
Jeffrey Cotter
Elijah Bender
Eleanor Pupko
John Clarke
Shea Dean
Steve Rosenberg
Rachel Cavell
Guest: Dylan Tuttle, County Planning Department

Approval of Previous Minutes. Minutes of the May 25th meeting were approved with corrections by motion of Jeff Cotter and seconded by Louis Turpin.

Jeffrey Cotter spoke in detail on behalf of the Rhinebeck Fire Department with major points as follows:

- Fire Department consists of an all-volunteer group of 53 active members.
- Apparatus includes an attack rig, a rescue, aerial, engine, 2 pickup trucks, an ATV and an ambulance.
- 26 firefighters are qualified as interior.
- There were 1159 alarms in 2022, 483 in the Village, 587 in the Town, 54 for mutual aid/Hillside.
- Space continues to be an issue.
- Transports of psychiatric patients is taxing on the volunteers as well as automatic fire alarms.
- Supplemental paid personnel might be on the horizon.
- \$240,000 in funding was raised for the new ambulance between the Frost Fund and the Interactive Group.
- Strong burden on volunteers from Ferncliff Nursing Home which the Department responds to in the Town Protective District.

Peter Dunn spoke on behalf of the Rhinebeck Police Department:

- Department consists of 15 part time officers.
- 1500-2000 calls per year. Staffing continues to be an issue. One officer was paid to go to the Academy as a means of increasing staff.
- There is a parking enforcement issue in the Village according to the Police Chief.
- There are 17 events throughout the year in the Village along with calls to the Astor Home and calls for psychiatric patients to Poughkeepsie that pose challenges for the Department.
- The Farmer's Market is a large event requiring police presence. The Agricultural Society also requires a strong presence. Mayor Bassett noted that the Agricultural Society gives back to the Village immensely, more than the protection that is provided.

Continuation of Housing Subcommittee Recommendations and Comments (Land Use):

- Recommendation #5 Grass/Lawns: Remove mention of "No Mow May" and add language to encourage native plantings and pollinator species.
- Recommendation #6 Gas Powered Equipment: A few members spoke against this largely due to cost of commercial electric equipment. Ultimately it was agreed to keep the language as it is presently crafted.
- Recommendation #7 Urban Agriculture: There was strong concern among several members on what this would entail. Many of the smaller lots in the Village might not accommodate some of the urban agriculture ideas advanced by the Land Use Subcommittee. This was tabled and will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Recommendation #8 Climate Smart: Place this program in capital letters. The group agreed to add "strive to achieve whatever levels achieve the ranking."
- Recommendation #9 Hospital Zone: Some asked what is legally possible if it goes vacant for a length of time. Goal is to keep the hospital vibrant in this community. One member stated that it is a significant resource and we should make conditions conducive for the hospital to stay and thrive. Many agreed with this.
- Recommendation #10 Community Solar: It was agreed to look into this although the Fair has already undertaken a review as to the feasibility of community solar.
- There was brief discussion on potential expansion of the SSO.
- Discussion on potential amendments to the zoning map including a hospital zone.
- Arts/Culture: Group discussed the pressing need for a community center and space for young people. Some members commented that many programs already exist through the school and Starr Library has just recently created an area. An inventory of spaces will be created.
- There was discussion of inviting the Library Board to the next meeting along with Town Supervisor Elizabeth Spinzia at some point soon.
- The group would like to come up with a list of intermunicipal issues.

- It was also discussed to invite the Code Enforcement Officer to sit in on a meeting and answer any questions.
- **Adjournment:** There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made at 8:56 pm.