

Village of Rhinebeck Comprehensive Plan-Thursday, April 13th, 2023

The April 13th, 2023 meeting was called to order by Matt Johnston at 6:00pm at Village Hall, 76 East Market Street, Rhinebeck, NY with the following members in attendance:

Matt Johnston, Chair
Jeffrey Cotter
Elijah Bender
Eleanor Pupko
John Clarke
Deirdre Burns
Louis Turpin
Rachel Cavell
John Traver
Shea Dean
Ernesto Martynek

Approval of Previous Minutes. Minutes of the March 23rd meeting were approved with corrections by motion of Louis Turpin and seconded by John Traver. Eleanor Pupko objected.

Discussion on Draft Recommendations:

- Business Subcommittee Recommendations:
- #7-Sidewalk Material: there was continued discussion of the proposed sidewalk district and about phasing out asphalt. The goal is to encourage bluestone and concrete.
- #9-Outdoor Dining: Some members were against aspects of outdoor dining and the obstruction of sidewalks created. There are designs for dining in the parking lane with planters instead of Jersey block. Some members spoke about preferring a lively and colorful community compared to a superhighway for pedestrians. Clearance for a wheelchair is important with 3-4' needed for this. There was consensus to **change the language to “even when” animated with outdoor dining.** One member would like it referred to as “sidewalk” dining.
- #10-Striping of Parking Spaces: A lengthy discussion regarding permit parking on Livingston Street took place. Some members suggested permit parking after 8PM and pointed out that no other street straddling the Business Center District enjoyed the privileges of the Livingston Street system. Other comments pointed to more parking slowing traffic down and curtailing the high speeds on the side streets. Matt noted that at least one objection was noted from members so no decision would be made at this meeting. Many remain in support of striping. Matt suggested that in the event the striping does not alleviate the parking on Livingston St, the Village take additional action. One

member would like to see in the record: “permit parking will be established in vulnerable areas of the Village near the Business Center.”

- It was noted that land use planning cannot restrict the type of businesses allowed in the Village. It would be the function of an economic development committee to encourage certain businesses. There was discussion surrounding the adoption of such a committee. Some feel housing is a more pressing concern. One member pointed out that the market demand is not really present during the week for certain businesses, specifically nightlife. A specifically curated nightlife scene might be appropriate. The closing of A.L. Stickle Variety Store was discussed and its impact on the Village.
- The group agreed to strike the recommendation banning hotels in the Business Center District. One member was opposed to removing this as a recommendation.
- There was discussion on the role tourism plays and the delicate balance of maintaining a strong local community base combined with visitors and tourists. Many would like to incentivize growth along with more permanent residents and housing affordability.
- Discussions are ongoing regarding the recommendation for a Public Engagement Advisory Committee to be facilitated with some Village resources and for a full-time liaison position.

Adjournment: There being no further business, a motion for adjournment was made at 8:53 pm. The next meeting will be held on April 27th.