



VILLAGE OF RHINEBECK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE FACT SHEET

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A comprehensive plan also allows for a municipality to state who it is, what it believes in, and how it hopes to evolve, and then allows it to implement these objectives. New York State law ([Village §7-722](#)) requires that local zoning laws be adopted in accordance with a comprehensive plan. Therefore, legally, a comprehensive plan is required for a municipality to manage land use. Land use planning is ultimately just one of the means to bring the goals of a community to life. A good plan is both a declaration of principles and a framework for future decisions. The plan is a community-centric, community-trusted way to guide the village's boards and offices in addressing new issues and opportunities.

What are the Goals of the Village of Rhinebeck Comprehensive Plan Committee?

The Village of Rhinebeck last formalized its goals into a [written comprehensive plan in 1993](#), after months of community input. The passage of time as well as increasing pressures of climate change, land development, housing costs, a previously unthinkable world-wide pandemic, and caring for our vulnerable populations require updated consideration. As a result, the Village Board passed a [resolution](#) to create the Village of Rhinebeck Comprehensive Plan Committee (the "Committee") on October 26, 2021.

The goal of the Committee is to update our comprehensive plan to reflect both current Village conditions as well as the future that we, as a community, envision. The larger the community input to create this plan, the more it will be trusted to form the basis of future decisions concerning our holistic long-term development. This is a plan for *all of us*, so we all need to see ourselves and our hopes reflected in it.

To achieve this, the Committee needs to reflect the diversity of the Village as much as possible. We will create numerous opportunities for as many people who desire to participate through both a robust subcommittee structure as well as public comment and input processes.

How Can You, the Members of our Community, Help?

By volunteering! Here are the various roles that are required:

Member of the Village of Rhinebeck Comprehensive Plan Committee	
Role	<p>You are...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● one of the 7-11 members of this standing committee. ● interested in the long-term development and evolution of the Village of Rhinebeck. ● practiced at working on committees, either for the Village or otherwise. ● willing to share responsibility for facilitation, time-keeping, records management, leadership, data analysis, creative brainstorming, and be an asset for the functioning of a high-performing committee. ● capable of sitting in a room with people of differing viewpoints and working together towards a common goal.
Time Commitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attendance at monthly, 90-minute online meetings of the Comprehensive Planning Committee. These will be online if allowed by New York State Open Meeting Laws. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In addition to the overall plan process, the first specific work that the Committee will focus on are questions around outdoor dining and retail as well as multi-family housing (workforce, elderly, and otherwise). ● Approximately 2-4 hours per week of additional leadership work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Additional meetings as necessary. ○ Analyzing public opinion gathered through surveys and public input/comments. ○ “Owning” a specific section of the comprehensive plan and shepherding it through a review and updating process. ○ Liaising with or chairing at least one subcommittee.
Appointment Term	<p>As the comprehensive planning process is expected to take 18-24 months, the initial term will be from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2023 or until the updated comprehensive plan is passed by the Village Board of Trustees.</p> <p>This Committee will remain a standing committee for the Village, so opportunities will exist to participate here over the long-term.</p> <p>Note that attendance and participation as described above are mandatory for committee members, and multiple absences could result in your appointment to this committee being revoked.</p>

Leadership on a Subcommittee	
Role	You want to participate in the overall comprehensive plan process and are particularly inspired by a specific set of issues. You are willing to structure, lead, and attend the regular meetings of a subcommittee, participate in discussion and planning, and seek to achieve consensus regarding key issues. You have a history of leading committees.
Time Commitment	Depends on the goals and time structure around the subcommittee. In general, though, expect bi-monthly 60-90 minute meetings and additional time spent on analysis, work product, and reporting to the main Committee.
Appointment Term	Varies depending on the purpose of the subcommittee. In general, though, until the subcommittee has reported on the results of its work to the main committee and considers its job complete.

Member of a Subcommittee	
Role	You are willing to attend the regular meetings of a subcommittee, participate in discussion and planning, and seek to achieve consensus regarding key issues.
Time Commitment	Depends on the goals and time structure around the subcommittee. In general, though, expect bi-monthly 60-90 minute meetings and additional time spent on analysis and work product.
Appointment Term	Varies depending on the purpose of the subcommittee. In general, though, until the subcommittee has reported on the results of its work to the main committee and considers its job complete.

Helpful Human	
Role	You have both the skills and the interest to help with the goals of the committee: organizing public input sessions, creating and distributing surveys, drafting public notices, editing, managing a database, updating Squarespace webpages, etc.
Time Commitment	Varies
Appointment Term	None