

ARTICLE X. Administration and Enforcement of the Zoning Law and New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code

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A. Purpose and Intent.

This Article provides for the administration and enforcement of this Zoning Law and the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (the Uniform Code) and the State Energy Conservation Construction Code (the Energy Code) in the Town of Rhinebeck. This Article is adopted pursuant to Section 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law. Except as otherwise provided in the Uniform Code, other state law or other Section of this Zoning Law, all buildings, structures, and premises, regardless of use or occupancy, are subject to the provisions this Article. [\[Back\]](#)

B. Definitions.

Unless otherwise expressly stated, the following terms shall have the meaning herein indicated. Article XVII also contains definitions of terms used in this Article:

"Building" shall mean any building, structure, or portion thereof used for residential business or manufacturing purpose.

"Building Permit" shall mean a permit issued pursuant to Article X, Section E of this Zoning Law. The term "Building Permit" shall also include a Building Permit which is renewed, amended or extended pursuant to any provision of this Zoning Law.

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"Certificate of Occupancy" shall mean a certificate issued pursuant to Article X, Section H of this Zoning Law.

"Certificate of Use" shall mean a certificate issued pursuant to Article X, Section I of this Zoning Law.

"Code Enforcement Officer" shall mean the Code Enforcement Officer appointed pursuant to Article X, Section C of this Zoning Law.

"Code Enforcement Personnel" shall include the Code Enforcement Officer and all Inspectors.

"Compliance Order" shall mean an order issued by the Code Enforcement Officer pursuant to Article X, Section G of this Zoning Law.

"Energy Code" shall mean the State Energy Conservation Construction Code, as currently in effect and as hereafter amended from time to time.

"Inspector" shall mean an inspector appointed pursuant to Article X, Section C of this Zoning Law.

"Operating Permit" shall mean a permit issued pursuant to Article X, Section M of this Zoning Law. The term "Operating Permit" shall also include an Operating Permit which is renewed, amended or extended pursuant to any provision of this Zoning Law.

"Permit Holder" shall mean the Person to whom a Building Permit has been issued.

"Person" shall include an individual, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, limited partnership, business trust, estate, trust, association, or any other legal or commercial entity of any kind or description.

"Stop Work Order" shall mean an order issued pursuant to Article X, Section G of this Zoning Law.

"Temporary Certificate" shall mean a certificate issued pursuant to Article X, Section H of this Zoning Law.

"Town" shall mean the Town of Rhinebeck.

"Uniform Code" shall mean the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code, as currently in effect and as hereafter amended from time to time.

"Zoning Enforcement Officer" shall be the Zoning Enforcement Officer appointed pursuant to Article X, Section D of this Zoning Law. [\[Back\]](#)

C. Code Enforcement Officer and Inspectors.

1. The office of Code Enforcement Officer is hereby created. The Code Enforcement Officer shall administer and enforce all the provisions of the Uniform Code, and Energy Code. The Code Enforcement Officer shall have the following powers and duties:
 - a. To receive, review, and approve or disapprove applications for Building Permits, Certificates of Use, Temporary Certificates and Operating Permits, and the plans, specifications and construction documents submitted with such applications;

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- b. Upon approval of such applications, to issue Building Permits, Certificates of Occupancy, Temporary Certificates and Operating Permits, and to include in Building Permits, Certificates of Occupancy, Temporary Certificates and Operating Permits such terms and conditions as the Code Enforcement Officer may determine to be appropriate;
 - c. To conduct construction inspections; inspections to be made prior to the issuance of Certificates of Occupancy; Temporary Certificates and Operating Permits; fire safety and property maintenance inspections; inspections incidental to the investigation of complaints and all other inspections required or permitted under any provision of this Zoning Law;
 - d. To issue Stop Work Orders and/or Compliance Orders;
 - e. To review and investigate complaints;
 - f. To issue orders pursuant to Article X Section R ("Violations");
 - g. To maintain records;
 - h. To collect fees as set by the Town Board;
 - i. To pursue administrative enforcement actions and proceedings and/or criminal proceedings to enforce provisions of the Uniform Code and/or Energy Code;
 - j. In consultation with the Town Attorney, to pursue such legal actions and proceedings as may be necessary to enforce the Uniform Code or the Energy Code, or to abate or correct conditions not in compliance with the Uniform Code or the Energy Code;
 - k. To issue Certificates of Compliance in accordance with §1702.1 of the Uniform Code; and
 - l. To exercise all other powers and fulfill all other duties conferred upon the Code Enforcement Officer by this Zoning Law.
2. The Code Enforcement Officer shall be appointed by the Town Board. The Code Enforcement Officer shall possess background experience related to building construction or fire prevention and shall, within the time prescribed by law, obtain such basic training, in-service training, advanced in-service training and other training as the State of New York shall require for code enforcement personnel. The Code Enforcement Officer shall obtain certification from the State Fire Administrator pursuant to the Executive Law and the regulations promulgated thereunder.
 3. In the event that the Code Enforcement Officer is unable to serve as such for any reason, an individual shall be appointed by the Town Board to serve as Acting Code Enforcement Officer. The Acting Code Enforcement Officer shall, during the term of his or her appointment, exercise all powers and fulfill all duties conferred upon the Code Enforcement Officer by this Zoning Law.
 4. One or more Inspectors may be appointed by the Town Board to act under the supervision and direction of the Code Enforcement Officer and to assist the Code Enforcement Officer in the exercise of the powers and fulfillment of the duties conferred upon the Code Enforcement Officer by this Zoning Law. Each Inspector shall, within the time prescribed by law, obtain such basic training, in-service training, advanced in-service training and other training as the State of New York shall require for code enforcement personnel, and each Inspector shall

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obtain certification from the State Fire Administrator pursuant to the Executive Law and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

5. The compensation for the Code Enforcement Officer and Inspectors shall be fixed from time to time by the Town Board of this Town. [\[Back\]](#)

D. Zoning Enforcement Officer.

1. The office of Zoning Enforcement Officer is hereby created. The Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) shall administer and enforce all provisions of this Zoning Law. The Zoning Enforcement Officer shall have the following powers and duties:
 - a. To receive and review all applications for Special Use Permits, Site Plan Approval and subdivisions pursuant to the provisions of this Zoning Law. In the event that the Zoning Enforcement Officer determines that the application meets all of the requirements of the Zoning Law, the application shall be forwarded by the ZEO to the Planning Board for further review in accordance with the provisions of the Zoning Law and/or Subdivision Regulations. In the event the ZEO finds that the application does not comply in one or more respects with the provisions of the Zoning Law, the application shall be denied by the ZEO, with leave to appeal the ZEO's determination to the Zoning Board of Appeals in accordance with the provisions of Article XI of this Zoning Law.
 - b. Upon approval of any application for a Special Use Permit, Site Plan Approval or for any other change in use requiring the issuance of a Building Permit, the ZEO shall issue a Certificate of Use verifying that the use complies with the provisions of the Zoning Law, and the requirements and conditions imposed by the Planning Board.
 - c. To conduct inspections prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Use and inspections incidental to the investigation of complaints and all other inspections required or permitted under any provision of this Zoning Law.
 - d. To issue Stop Work Orders, Notices of Violations and/or Compliance Orders.
 - e. To review and investigate complaints.
 - f. To review all applications for Building Permits for compliance with the provisions of the Zoning Law.
 - g. To issue orders pursuant to Article X, Section R ("Violations").
 - h. To maintain records.
 - i. To collect fees set by the Town Board.
 - j. To pursue administrative and criminal enforcement actions and proceedings and/or criminal proceedings to enforce the provisions of this Zoning Law.
 - k. Consultation with the Town Attorney to pursue such legal actions and proceedings as may be necessary to enforce the provisions of the Zoning law.
 - l. To exercise all other powers and fulfill all other duties conferred upon the Zoning Enforcement Officer by this Zoning Law.

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2. The Zoning Enforcement Officer shall be appointed by the Town Board. The Zoning Enforcement Officer shall possess background and experience relating to the enforcement, interpretation, application and enforcement of Zoning Laws which shall, within the time period prescribed by law, obtain such basic training, in service training, advanced in service training and other training as the State of New York and/or the Town shall require for Zoning Enforcement personnel.
3. In the event the ZEO is unable to serve as such for any reason, an individual shall be appointed by the Town Board to serve as Acting Zoning Enforcement Officer. The Acting Zoning Enforcement Officer shall, during the term of his or her appointment, exercise all powers and fulfill all duties conferred upon the ZEO by this Zoning Law.
4. Compensation of the Zoning Enforcement Officer shall be fixed from time to time by the Town Board.
5. For purposes of this Zoning Law, and Dutchess County Civil Service Requirements, the Office of Zoning Enforcement Officer shall be synonymous with Zoning Administrator. [\[Back\]](#)

E. Building Permits.

1. **Building Permits Required.** Except as otherwise provided in Article X, Section E(2) of this Section, a Building Permit shall be required for any work which must conform to the Uniform Code and/or the Energy Code, including, but not limited to, the construction, enlargement, alteration, improvement, removal, relocation or demolition of any building or structure or any portion thereof; and the installation of a solid fuel burning heating appliance, chimney or flue in any dwelling unit. No Person shall commence or cause to commence any work for which a Building Permit is required without first having obtained a Building Permit from the Code Enforcement Officer.
2. **Exemptions.** No Building Permit shall be required for work in any of the following categories:
 - a. Construction or installation of one story detached structures associated with one- or two-family dwellings or multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses) which are used for tool and storage sheds, playhouses or similar uses, provided the gross floor area does not exceed 144 square feet;
 - b. Installation of swings and other playground equipment associated with a one- or two-family dwelling or multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses);
 - c. Installation of swimming pools associated with a one- or two-family dwelling or multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses) where such pools are designed for a water depth of less than 24 inches and are installed entirely above ground;
 - d. Construction of retaining walls unless such walls support a surcharge or impound Class 1, H or h A liquids;
 - e. Construction of temporary motion picture, television and theater stage sets and scenery;
 - f. Installation of window awnings supported by an exterior wall of a one- or two-family dwelling or multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses);
 - g. Installation of partitions or movable cases less than 5'-9" in height;

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- h. Painting, wallpapering, tiling, carpeting, or other similar finish work;
 - i. Installation of listed portable electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation or cooling equipment or appliances;
 - j. Replacement of any equipment provided the replacement does not alter the equipment's listing or render it inconsistent with the equipment's original specifications; or
 - k. Repairs, provided that such repairs do not involve:
 - (1) The removal or cutting away of a loadbearing wall, partition, or portion thereof, or of any structural beam or load bearing component;
 - (2) The removal or change of any required means of egress, or the rearrangement of parts of a structure in a manner which affects egress;
 - (3) The enlargement, alteration, replacement or relocation of any building system; or
 - (4) The removal from service of all or part of a fire protection system for any period of time.
3. **Exemption not deemed authorization to perform non-compliant work.** The exemption from the requirement to obtain a building permit for work in any category set forth in Article X, Section E(2) of this Section shall not be deemed an authorization for work to be performed in violation of the Uniform Code or the Energy Code.
4. **Applications for Building Permits.** Applications for a Building Permit shall be made in writing on a form provided by or otherwise acceptable to the Code Enforcement Officer. The application shall, be signed by the owner of the property where the work is to be performed or an authorized agent of the owner. The application shall include such information as the Code Enforcement Officer deems sufficient to permit a determination by the Code Enforcement Officer that the intended work complies with all applicable requirements of the Uniform Code and the Energy Code. The application shall include or be accompanied by the following information and documentation:
- a. A description of the proposed work;
 - b. The tax map number and the street address of the premises where the work is to be performed;
 - c. The occupancy classification of any affected building or structure;
 - d. Where applicable, a statement of special inspections prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Code; and
 - e. At least 2 sets of construction documents (drawings and/or specifications) which:
 - i. Define the scope of the proposed work;
 - ii. Are prepared by a New York State registered architect or licensed professional engineer where so required by the Education Law;
 - iii. Indicate with sufficient clarity and detail the nature and extent of the work proposed;
 - iv. Substantiate that the proposed work will comply with the Uniform Code and the Energy Code; and

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- v. Where applicable, include a Site Plan that shows any existing and proposed buildings and structures on the site, the location of any existing or proposed well or septic system, the location of the intended work, and the distances between the buildings and structures and the lot lines.
5. **Construction documents.** Construction documents will not be accepted as part of an application for a Building Permit unless they satisfy the requirements set forth in paragraph (4) of subdivision (e) of this Section. Construction documents which are accepted as part of the application for a Building Permit shall be marked as accepted by the Code Enforcement Officer in writing or by stamp. One set of the accepted construction documents shall be retained by the Code Enforcement Officer, and one set of the accepted construction documents shall be returned to the applicant to be kept at the work site so as to be available for use by the Code Enforcement Personnel. However, the return of a set of accepted construction documents to the applicant shall not be construed as authorization to commence work, nor as an indication that a Building Permit will be issued. Work shall not be commenced until and unless a Building Permit is issued.
6. **Issuance of Building Permits.** An application for a Building Permit shall be examined to ascertain whether the proposed work is in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Uniform Code and Energy Code. The application shall also be reviewed by the Zoning Enforcement Officer for compliance with the provisions of the Zoning Law. The Code Enforcement Officer shall issue a Building Permit if the proposed work is in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Uniform Code and Energy Code.
7. **Building Permits to be displayed.** Building permits shall be visibly displayed at the work site and shall remain visible until the authorized work has been completed.
8. **Work to be in accordance with construction documents.** All work shall be performed in accordance with the construction documents which were submitted with and accepted as part of the application for the Building Permit. The Building Permit shall contain such a directive. The Permit Holder shall immediately notify the Code Enforcement Officer of any change occurring during the course of the work. The Building Permit shall contain such a directive. If the Code Enforcement Officer determines that such change warrants a new or amended Building Permit, such change shall not be made until and unless a new or amended Building Permit reflecting such change is issued.
9. **Time limits.** Building Permits shall become invalid unless the authorized work is commenced within one (1) year following the date of issuance. Building Permits shall expire one (1) year after the date of issuance. For good cause, the Code Enforcement Officer may allow up to two (2) extensions for periods not to exceed six (6) calendar months each. A Building Permit which has become invalid or which has expired pursuant to this subdivision may be renewed upon application by the Permit Holder, payment of the applicable fee, and approval of the application by the Code Enforcement Officer.
10. **Revocation or suspension of Building Permits.** If the Code Enforcement Officer determines that a Building Permit was issued in error because of incorrect, inaccurate or incomplete information, or that the work for which a Building Permit was issued violates the Uniform Code or the Energy Code, the Code Enforcement Officer shall revoke the Building Permit or suspend the Building Permit until such time as the Permit Holder demonstrates that:

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- a. All work then completed is in compliance with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Code and the Energy Code; and
 - b. All work then proposed to be performed shall be in compliance with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Code and the Energy Code.
11. **Fee.** The fee specified in or determined in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Fee Schedule adopted by the Town Board must be paid at the time of submission of an application for a Building Permit, for an amended Building Permit, or for renewal of a Building Permit.
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F. Construction Inspections.

1. **Work to remain accessible and exposed.** Work shall remain accessible and exposed until inspected and accepted by the Code Enforcement Officer or by an Inspector authorized by the Code Enforcement Officer. The Permit Holder shall notify the Code Enforcement Officer when any element of work described in subdivision (2) of this Section is ready for inspection.
2. **Elements of work to be inspected.** The following elements of the construction process shall be inspected, where applicable:
 - a. Work site prior to the issuance of a Building Permit;
 - b. Footing and foundation;
 - c. Preparation for concrete slab;
 - d. Framing;
 - e. Building systems, including underground and rough-in;
 - f. Fire resistant construction;
 - g. Fire resistant penetrations;
 - h. Solid fuel burning heating appliances, chimneys, flues or gas vents;
 - i. Energy Code compliance; and
 - j. A final inspection after all work authorized by the Building Permit has been completed.
3. **Inspection results.** After inspection, the work or a portion thereof shall be noted as satisfactory as completed, or the Permit Holder shall be notified as to where the work fails to comply with the Uniform Code or Energy Code. Work not in compliance with any applicable provision of the Uniform Code or Energy Code shall remain exposed until such work shall have been brought into compliance with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Code and the Energy Code, re-inspected, and found satisfactory as completed.
4. **Fee.** The fee specified in or determined in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Town's Fee Schedule must be paid prior to or at the time of each inspection performed pursuant to this Section. [\[Back\]](#)

G. Stop Work Orders.

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1. **Authority to issue.** The Code Enforcement Officer and Zoning Enforcement Officer are authorized to issue Stop Work Orders pursuant to this Section.
 - a. Any work that is determined by the Code Enforcement Officer to be contrary to any applicable provision of the Uniform Code, or Energy Code, without regard to whether such work is or is not work for which a Building Permit is required, and without regard to whether a Building Permit has or has not been issued for such work; or
 - b. Any work that is being conducted in a dangerous or unsafe manner in the opinion of the Code Enforcement Officer or Zoning Enforcement Officer, without regard to whether such work is or is not work for which a Building Permit is required, and without regard to whether a Building Permit has or has not been issued for such work; or
 - c. Any work for which a Building Permit is required which is being performed without the required Building Permit, or under a Building Permit that has become invalid, has expired, or has been suspended or revoked.
 - d. Any work that is determined by the Zoning Enforcement Officer to be conducted in violation of the Zoning Law, including, but not limited to, work conducted on land, a building or structure for which a Special Use Permit and/or Site Plan Approval is required but has not been obtained.
2. **Content of Stop Work Orders.** Stop Work Orders shall:
 - a. Be in writing;
 - b. Be dated and signed by issuing Officer;
 - c. State the reason or reasons for issuance; and
 - d. If applicable, state the conditions which must be satisfied before work will be permitted to resume.
3. **Service of Stop Work Orders.** The Code Enforcement Officer or ZEO shall cause the Stop Work Order, or a copy thereof, to be served on the owner of the affected property (and, if the owner is not the Permit Holder, on the Permit Holder) personally or by registered or certified mail. The Code Enforcement Officer or ZEO shall be permitted, but not required, to cause the Stop Work Order, or a copy thereof, to be served on any builder, architect, tenant, contractor, subcontractor, construction superintendent, or their agents, or any other Person taking part or assisting in work affected by the Stop Work Order, personally or by registered or certified mail; provided, however, that failure to serve any Person mentioned in this sentence shall not affect the efficacy of the Stop Work Order.
4. **Effect of Stop Work Order.** Upon the issuance of a Stop Work Order, the owner of the affected property, the Permit Holder and any other Person performing, taking part in or assisting in the work shall immediately cease all work which is the subject of the Stop Work Order.
5. **Remedy not exclusive.** The issuance of a Stop Work Order shall not be the exclusive remedy available to address any event described in Article X, Section G(1)(a) of this Section, and the authority to issue a Stop Work Order shall be in addition to, and not in substitution for or limitation of, the right and authority to pursue any other remedy or impose any other penalty under Article X, Section R (Violations) of this Zoning Law or under any other applicable Zoning

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Law or State law. Any such other remedy or penalty may be pursued at any time, whether prior to, at the time of, or after the issuance of a Stop Work Order. [\[Back\]](#)

H. Certificates of Occupancy.

1. **Certificates of Occupancy Required.** A Certificate of Occupancy shall be required for any work which is the subject of a Building Permit and for all structures, buildings, or portions thereof, which are converted from one use or occupancy classification or sub-classification to another. Permission to use or occupy a building or structure, or portion thereof for which a Building Permit was previously issued shall be granted only by issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy.
2. **Issuance of Certificates of Occupancy.** The Code Enforcement Officer shall issue a Certificate of Occupancy if the work which was the subject of the Building Permit was completed in accordance with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Code and Energy Code and, if applicable, that the structure, building or portion thereof that was converted from one use or occupancy classification or sub-classification to another complies with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Code and Energy Code. The Code Enforcement Officer or an Inspector authorized by the Code Enforcement Officer shall inspect the building, structure or work prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy. In addition, where applicable, the following documents, prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Code by such person or persons as may be designated by or otherwise acceptable to the Code Enforcement Officer, at the expense of the applicant for the Certificate of Occupancy, shall be provided to the Code Enforcement Officer prior to the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy:
 - a. A written statement of structural observations and/or a final report of special inspections; and
 - b. Flood hazard certifications.
3. **Contents of Certificates of Occupancy.** A Certificate of Occupancy shall contain the following information:
 - a. The Building Permit number, if any;
 - b. The date of issuance of the Building Permit, if any;
 - c. The name, address and tax map number of the property;
 - d. If the Certificate of Occupancy is not applicable to an entire structure, a description of that portion of the structure for which the Certificate of Occupancy is issued;
 - e. The use and occupancy classification of the structure;
 - f. The type of construction of the structure;
 - g. The assembly occupant load of the structure, if any;
 - h. If an automatic sprinkler system is provided, a notation as to whether the sprinkler system is required;
 - i. Any special conditions imposed in connection with the issuance of the Permit; and

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- j. The signature of the Code Enforcement Officer issuing the Certificate of Occupancy and the date of issuance.
4. **Temporary Certificate.** The Code Enforcement Officer shall be permitted to issue a Temporary Certificate allowing the temporary occupancy of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, prior to completion of the work which is the subject of a Building Permit. However, in no event shall the Code Enforcement Officer issue a Temporary Certificate unless the Code Enforcement Officer determines:
 - a. That the building or structure, or the portion thereof covered by the Temporary Certificate, may be occupied safely;
 - b. That any fire- and smoke-detecting or fire protection equipment which has been installed is operational;
 - c. That all required means of egress from the building or structure have been provided. The Code Enforcement Officer may include in a Temporary Certificate such terms and conditions as he or she deems necessary or appropriate to ensure safety or to further the purposes and intent of the Uniform Code. A Temporary Certificate shall be effective for a period of time, not to exceed six (6) months, which shall be determined by the Code Enforcement Officer and specified in the Temporary Certificate. During the specified period of effectiveness of the Temporary Certificate, the Permit Holder shall undertake to bring the building or structure into full compliance with all applicable provisions of the Uniform Code and the Energy Code.
5. **Revocation or suspension of certificates.** If the Code Enforcement Officer determines that a Certificate of Occupancy or a Temporary Certificate was issued in error because of incorrect, inaccurate or incomplete information, and if the relevant deficiencies are not corrected to the satisfaction of the Code Enforcement Officer within such period of time as shall be specified by the Code Enforcement Officer, the Code Enforcement Officer shall revoke or suspend such Certificate.
6. **Fee.** The fee specified in or determined in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Town's Fee Schedule must be paid at the time of submission of an application for a Certificate of Occupancy or for Temporary Certificate. [\[Back\]](#)

I. Certificate of Use.

1. **Certificate of Use Required.** A Certificate of Use shall be required for any change of use or institution of new use for which a Building Permit is required, and for any use, building or structure for which a Special Use Permit and/or Site Plan Approval has been issued by the Planning Board. A Certificate of Use shall also be required for any structure or building, or portion thereof, for which a Certificate of Occupancy is required under this Chapter.
2. **Issuance of Certificate of Use.** The Zoning Enforcement Officer shall issue a Certificate of Use if he or she has determined: (i) all work has been completed in accordance with the Building Permit and the Code Enforcement Officer has determined that a Certificate of Occupancy will be issued; (ii) the use of the land, building and structure and/or the building or structure complies with the provisions of the Zoning Law; (iii) the applicant has complied with

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all conditions imposed by the Planning Board; has completed all of the infrastructure and site improvements required by the Planning Board approval; and has posted the requisite security for the completion of those improvements, as required by the Planning Board and the Town Board. The Zoning Enforcement Officer shall inspect the land, building or structure prior to the issuance of the Certificate of Use. Prior to the issuance of the Certificate of Use, the applicant shall provide a written statement to the Zoning Enforcement Officer of the applicant's intended use of the land, building and/or structure.

3. **Contents of Certificates of Use.** A Certificate of Use shall contain the following information:
 - a. The Building Permit number, if any.
 - b. The date of the issuance of the Building Permit and/or Certificate of Occupancy.
 - c. The name, address and tax map number of the property.
 - d. If the Certificate of Use is not applicable to an entire building, structure or land, a description of that portion of the building, structure or land for which the Certificate of Use is issued.
 - e. Approved use and occupancy classification of the land, building and/or structure.
 - f. Any special conditions imposed by the ZEO with the issuance of the Zoning Permit.
 - g. The signature of the ZEO issuing the Certificate of Use, and the date of issuance.
4. **Temporary Certificate of Use.** The Zoning Enforcement Officer shall be permitted to issue a Temporary Certificate of Use allowing the temporary use of the land, building or structure, or portion thereof, prior to completion of all work and satisfaction of conditions imposed by the applicable Board. However, in no event shall the ZEO issue a Temporary Certificate of Use unless the ZEO determines the land, building or structure, or portion thereof, covered by the Temporary Certificate may be used or occupied safely, and shall not cause harm to neighboring property owners.
5. **Revocation or Suspension of Certificate of Use.** If the ZEO determines that a Certificate of Use or Temporary Certificate was issued in error because of incorrect, inaccurate or incomplete information, and if the relevant deficiencies are not corrected to the satisfaction of the ZEO within such period of time shall bespecified by the ZEO, the ZEO shall revoke or suspend such Certificate.
6. **Fee.** The fee specified or determined in accordance with the Town's Fee Schedule must be paid at the time of the submission of an application for a Certificate of Use or Temporary Certificate. [Back](#)

J. Filing of Administration Decision at Time of Appeal.

1. Each Building Permit, Certificate of Occupancy, Notice of Violation, Compliance Order, Operating Permit, Op Work Order, Temporary Certificate, Order, Requirement, Decision, Interpretation or Determination of the Code Enforcement Officer or ZEO (hereinafter referred to collectively as "Order") shall be filed in the Office of such official within five business days from the date it is rendered and shall be a public record.

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2. An appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals shall be taken within sixty days after the filing of any such Order by filing with the official a Notice of Appeal specifying the grounds thereon and the relief sought. The official from whom the appeal is taken shall, forthwith, transmit to the Zoning Board of Appeals all of the papers constituting the record upon which the action appealed from was taken.
3. An appeal shall stay all proceedings in furtherance of the action appealed from unless the official from whom the appeal is taken certifies to the ZBA, after the Notice of Appeal shall have been filed with the official, that by reason of facts stated in the Certificate, a stay would in his or her opinion cause imminent peril to life or property, in which case proceedings shall not be stayed otherwise then by a restraining order which may be granted by the ZBA or by a Court of record on application, on notice to the official from whom the appeal is taken, and on due cause shown. [\[Back\]](#)

K. Notification Regarding Fire or Explosion.

The chief of any fire department providing fire fighting services for a property within this Town shall promptly notify the Code Enforcement Officer and ZEO of any fire or explosion involving any structural damage, fuel burning appliance, chimney or gas vent. [\[Back\]](#)

L. Unsafe Buildings and Structures.

Unsafe structures and equipment in this Town shall be identified and addressed in accordance with the following procedures:

1. **Investigation and Report.** When the ZEO and/or Code Enforcement Officer, in his/her own opinion, or upon receipt of information that a building: (1) is or may become dangerous or unsafe to the general public; (2) is open at the doorways and windows, making it accessible to and an object of attraction to minors under eighteen years of age, as well as to vagrants and other trespassers; (3) is or may become a place of rodent infestation; (4) presents any other danger to the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the public; or (5) is unfit for the purposes for which it may lawfully be used, he or she shall cause or make an inspection thereof and report in writing to the Town Board of the Town of Rhinebeck his/her findings and recommendations in regard to its repair or demolition and removal.
2. **Town Board.** The Town Board shall thereafter consider such report and by resolution determine if in its opinion the report so warrants that such building is unsafe and/or dangerous and order its repair if the same can be safely repaired or its demolition and removal, and further order that a notice be served upon the persons and in the manner provided herein.
3. **Notice, Contents.** The notice shall contain the following:
 - a. A description of the premises;
 - b. A statement of the particulars in which the building is unsafe or dangerous;
 - c. An order outlining the manner in which the building is to be made safe and secure, or demolished and removed;

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- d. A statement that the securing or removal of such building shall commence within 30 days of the service of the notice and shall be completed within 60 days thereafter, unless, for good cause shown, such time shall be extended;
 - e. A date, time and place for a hearing before the Town Board in relation to such dangerous or unsafe building, which hearing shall be scheduled not less than five business days from the date of service of the notice; and
 - f. A statement that in the event of neglect or refusal to comply with the order to secure or demolish and remove the building, the Town Board is authorized to provide for its demolition and removal, to assess all expenses thereof against the land on which it is located, and to institute a special proceeding to collect the costs of demolition, including legal expenses.
4. **Service of Notice.** The said notice shall be served (1) by personal service of a copy thereof upon the owner, executor, administrator, agent, lessee, or any person having a vested or contingent interest in such unsafe building as shown by the records of the Town Receiver of Taxes or Tax Collector or of the County Clerk; or if no such person can reasonably be found, by mailing such owner by registered mail a copy of such notice directed to his/her last known address as shown by the above records; and (2) by personal service of a copy of such notice upon any adult person residing or occupying said premises if such person can be reasonably found; and (3) by securely affixing a copy of such notice upon the unsafe building. A copy of the Notice served as provided herein shall be filed in the Office of the County Clerk of the County of Dutchess.
 5. **Refusal to Comply.** In the event of the refusal or neglect of the person so notified to comply with the said order of the Town Board and after the hearing, the Town Board shall provide for the demolition and removal of such building or structure either by Town employees or by contract. Except in emergency as provided in Section 10 hereof, any contract for demolition and removal of a building in excess of \$10,000 shall be awarded through competitive bidding.
 6. **Assessment of Expenses.** All expenses incurred by the Town in connection with the proceedings to repair and secure, or demolish and remove the unsafe building, including the cost of actually removing such building, and all reasonable and necessary legal expenses incidental thereof, shall, at the option of the Town Board either: (i) Be assessed against the land on which such building is located and shall be levied and collected in the same manner as provided in the Town Law for the levy and collection of a special ad valorem levy, or (ii) Be collected by commencement of a special proceeding against the owner of said unsafe or dangerous building or structure pursuant to General Municipal Law §78-b.
 7. **Emergency Cases.** Where it reasonably appears that there is present a clear and imminent danger to life, safety or health of any person or property, unless an unsafe building is immediately repaired and secured or demolished, the Town Board may by resolution authorize the Building Inspector to immediately cause the repair or demolition of such unsafe building. The expenses of such repair or demolition shall be a charge against the land on which it is located and shall be assessed, levied and collected as provided in Section 6 hereof. [\[Back\]](#)

M. Operating Permits.

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1. **Operating Permits required.** Operating Permits shall be required for conducting the activities or using the categories of buildings listed below. Any person who proposes to undertake any activity or to operate any type of building listed in this subdivision (1) shall be required to obtain an Operating Permit prior to commencing such activity or operation.
 - a. Manufacturing, storing or handling hazardous materials in quantities exceeding those listed in Tables 2703.1.1(1), 2703.1.1(2), 2703.1.1(3) or 2703.1.1(4) in the publication entitled "Fire Code of New York State" and incorporated by reference in 19 NYCRR Section 1225.1;
 - b. Hazardous processes and activities, including but not limited to, commercial and industrial operations which produce combustible dust as a byproduct, fruit and crop ripening, and waste handling, however, this subsection is not intended to apply to "sound agricultural practices" as regulated by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets;
 - c. Use of pyrotechnic devices in assembly occupancies;
 - d. Buildings containing one or more areas of public assembly with an occupant load of 50 persons or more;
 - e. Buildings whose use or occupancy classification may pose a substantial potential hazard to public safety, as determined by resolution adopted by the Town Board of this Town; and
 - f. Tents and canopies.
2. **Applications for Operating Permits.** An application for an Operating Permit shall be in writing on a form provided by or otherwise acceptable to the Code Enforcement Officer. Such application shall include such information as the Code Enforcement Officer deems sufficient to permit a determination by the Code Enforcement Officer that quantities, materials, and activities conform to the requirements of the Uniform Code. If the Code Enforcement Officer determines that tests or reports are necessary to verify conformance, such tests or reports shall be performed or provided by such person or persons as may be designated by or otherwise acceptable to the Code Enforcement Officer, at the expense of the applicant.
3. **Inspections.** The Code Enforcement Officer or an Inspector authorized by the Code Enforcement Officer shall inspect the subject premises prior to the issuance of an Operating Permit.
4. **Multiple Activities.** In any circumstance in which more than one activity listed in subdivision (a) of this Section is to be conducted at a location, the Code Enforcement Officer may require a separate Operating Permit for each such activity, or the Code Enforcement Officer may, in his or her discretion, issue a single Operating Permit to apply to all such activities.
5. **Duration of Operating Permits.** Operating permits shall be issued for such period of time, not to exceed one year in the case of any Operating Permit issued for an area of public assembly and not to exceed three years in any other case, as shall be determined by the Code Enforcement Officer to be consistent with local conditions. The effective period of each Operating Permit shall be specified in the Operating Permit. An Operating Permit may be reissued or renewed upon application to the Code Enforcement Officer, payment of the applicable fee, and approval of such application by the Code Enforcement Officer.

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6. **Revocation or suspension of Operating Permits.** If the Code Enforcement Officer determines that any activity or building for which an Operating Permit was issued does not comply with any applicable provision of the Uniform Code, such Operating Permit shall be revoked or suspended.
7. **Fee.** The fee specified in or determined in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Town's Fee Schedule must be paid at the time submission of an application for an Operating Permit, for an amended Operating Permit, or for reissue or renewal of an Operating Permit.

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N. Fire Safety and Property Maintenance Inspections.

1. **Inspections required.** Fire safety and property maintenance inspections of buildings and structures shall be performed by the Code Enforcement Officer or an Inspector designated by the Code Enforcement Officer at the following intervals:
 - a. Fire safety and property maintenance inspections of buildings or structures which contain an area of public assembly shall be performed at least once every twelve (12) months.
 - b. Fire safety and property maintenance inspections of buildings or structures being occupied as dormitories shall, be performed at least once every twelve (12) months.
 - c. Fire safety and property maintenance inspections of all multiple dwellings not included in paragraphs (1) or (2) of this subdivision, and all non-residential buildings, structures, uses and occupancies not included in paragraphs (1) or (2) of this subdivision, shall be performed at least once every 24 months
2. **Inspections permitted.** In addition to the inspections required by subdivision (a) of this Section, a fire safety and property maintenance inspection of any building, structure, use, or occupancy, or of any dwelling unit, may also be performed by the Code Enforcement Officer or an Inspector designated by the Code Enforcement Officer at any time upon:
 - a. The request of the owner of the property to be in that conditions or activities failing to comply with the Uniform Code or Energy Code exist; or
 - b. Receipt by the Code Enforcement Officer of any other information, reasonably believed by the Code Enforcement Officer to be reliable, giving rise to reasonable cause to believe that conditions or activities failing to comply with the Uniform Code or Energy Code exist; provided, however, that nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as permitting an inspection under any circumstances under which a court order or warrant permitting such inspection is required, unless such court order or warrant shall have been obtained,
 - c. OFPC Inspections. Nothing in this Section or in any other provision of this Zoning Law shall supersede, limit or impair the powers, duties and responsibilities of the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control ("OFPC") and the New York State Fire Administrator under Executive Law Section 156-e and Education Law Section 807-b.
3. **Fee.** The fee specified in or determined in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Town's Fee Schedule must be paid prior to or at the time each inspection performed pursuant to this Section. This subdivision shall not apply to inspections performed by OFPC. [\[Back\]](#)

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O. Complaints.

The Code Enforcement Officer and ZEO shall review and investigate complaints which allege or assert the existence of conditions or activities that fail to comply with the Uniform Code, the Energy Code, this Zoning Law, or any other Law, ordinance or regulation adopted for administration and enforcement of the Uniform Code or the Energy Code. All such complaints shall be submitted to the ZEO or Code Enforcement Officer in writing. The process for responding to a complaint shall include such of the following steps as the officer may deem to be appropriate:

1. Performing an inspection of the conditions and/or activities alleged to be in violation, and documenting the results of such inspection;
2. If a violation is found to exist, providing the owner of the affected property and any other Person who may be responsible for the violation with notice of the violation and opportunity to abate, correct or cure the violation, or otherwise proceeding in the manner described in Article X, Section R (Violations) of this Zoning Law;
3. If appropriate, issuing a Stop Work Order and/or Compliance Order;
4. If a violation which was found to exist is abated or corrected, performing an inspection to ensure that the violation has been abated or corrected, preparing a final written report reflecting such abatement or correction, and filing such report with the complaint. [\[Back\]](#)

P. Record Keeping.

1. The Code Enforcement Officer and ZEO shall keep permanent official records of all transactions and activities conducted by the officer and Personnel, including records of:
 - a. All applications received, reviewed and approved or denied;
 - b. All plans, specifications and construction documents approved;
 - c. All Building Permits, Certificates of Occupancy, Temporary Certificates, Stop Work Orders, and Operating Permits and Certificates of Use issued;
 - d. All inspections and tests performed;
 - e. All statements and reports issued;
 - f. All complaints received;
 - g. All investigations conducted;
 - h. All other features and activities specified in or contemplated by Article X of this Zoning Law; and
 - i. All fees charged and collected.
2. All such records shall be public records open for public inspection during normal business hours. All plans and records pertaining to buildings or structures, or appurtenances thereto, shall be retained for at least the minimum time period so required by State law and regulation. [\[Back\]](#)

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Q. Program Review and Reporting.

1. The Code Enforcement Officer and ZEO shall each annually submit to the Town Board of this Town a written report and summary of all business conducted by the officer, including a report and summary of all transactions and activities described in Section O (Record Keeping) of this Zoning Law and a report and summary of all appeals or litigation pending or concluded.
2. The Code Enforcement Officer shall annually submit to the Secretary of State, on behalf of this Town, on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State, a report of the activities of this Town relative to administration and enforcement of the Uniform Code.
3. The Code Enforcement Officer shall, upon request of the New York State Department of State, provide to the New York State Department of State, from the records and related materials this Town is required to maintain, excerpts, summaries, tabulations, statistics and other information and accounts of the activities of this Town in connection with administration and enforcement of the Uniform Code. [\[Back\]](#)

R. Violations.

1. **Compliance Orders.** The Code Enforcement Officer and ZEO are authorized to order in writing the remedying of any condition or activity found to exist in, on or about any building, structure, or premises in violation of the Uniform Code, the Energy Code, or this Zoning Law. Upon finding that any such condition or activity exists, the officer shall issue a Compliance Order. The Compliance Order shall: (1) be in writing; (2) be dated and signed by the Officer; (3) specify the condition or activity that violates the Uniform Code, the Energy Code, or this Zoning Law; (4) specify the provision or provisions of the Uniform Code, the Energy Code, or this Zoning Law which is/are violated by the specified condition or activity; (5) specify the period of time which the Officer deems to be reasonably necessary for achieving compliance; (6) direct that compliance be achieved within the specified period of time; and (7) state that an action or proceeding to compel compliance may be instituted if compliance is not achieved within the specified period of time. The Officer shall cause the Compliance Order, or a copy thereof to be served on the owner of the affected property personally or by registered or certified mail. The Officer shall be permitted, but not required, to cause the Compliance Order, or a copy thereof; to be served on any builder, architect, tenant, contractor, subcontractor, construction superintendent, or their agents, or any other Person taking part or assisting in work being performed at the affected property personally or by registered or certified mail; provided, however, that failure to serve any Person mentioned in this sentence shall not affect the efficacy of the Compliance Order.
2. **Appearance Tickets.** The Code Enforcement Officer and each Inspector and ZEO are authorized to issue appearance tickets for any violation of the Uniform Code or Zoning Law.
3. **Civil Penalties.** In addition to those penalties proscribed by State law, any Person who violates any provision of the Uniform Code, the Energy Code or this Zoning Law, or any term or condition of any Building Permit, Certificate of Occupancy, Certificate of Use, Temporary Certificate, Stop Work Order, Operating Permit or other notice or order issued by the Code Enforcement Officer pursuant to any provision of this Zoning Law, shall be liable to a civil penalty of not more than \$200 for each day or part thereof during which such violation

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continues. The civil penalties provided by this subdivision shall be recoverable in an action instituted in the name of this Town.

4. **Criminal Penalties and Enforcement.** Any violation of the Uniform Code, Energy Code or Zoning Law is hereby declared to be an offense punishable by a fine not exceeding \$350.00 or imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months, or both, for conviction of a first offense; upon conviction of a second offense, both of which were committed within a period of five years, punishable by a fine not less than \$350.00, nor more than \$700.00, or imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months, or both; and upon conviction of a third or subsequent offense, all of which were committed within a period of five years, punishable by a fine not less than \$700.00, nor more than \$1,000.00, or imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months, or both. For the purpose of conferring jurisdiction upon the Courts and judicial officers generally, violations of the Uniform Code, Energy Code or Zoning Law shall be deemed misdemeanors and for such purpose only, all provisions of law relating to misdemeanors shall apply to such violations. Each week's continued violation shall constitute a separate additional violation.
5. **Injunctive Relief.** An action or proceeding may be instituted in the name of this Town, in a court of competent jurisdiction, to prevent, restrain, enjoin, correct, or abate any violation of, or to enforce, any provision of the Uniform Code, the Energy Code, this Zoning Law, or any term or condition of any Building Permit, Certificate of Occupancy, Certificate of Use, Temporary Certificate, Stop Work Order, Operating Permit, Compliance Order, or other notice or order issued by the Code Enforcement Officer or ZEO pursuant to any provision of this Zoning Law. In particular, but not by way of limitation, where the construction or use of a building or structure is in violation of any provision of the Uniform Code, the Energy Code, this Zoning Law, or any Stop Work Order, Compliance Order or other order obtained under the Uniform Code, the Energy Code or this Zoning Law, an action or proceeding may be commenced in the name of this Town, in the Supreme Court or in any other court having the requisite jurisdiction, to obtain an order directing the removal of the building or structure or an abatement of the condition in violation of such provisions. No action or proceeding described in this subdivision shall be commenced without the appropriate authorization from the Town Board of this Town.
6. **Remedies Not Exclusive.** No remedy or penalty specified in this Section shall be the exclusive remedy or remedy available to address any violation described in this Section, and each remedy or penalty specified in this Section shall be in addition to, and not in substitution for or limitation of, the other remedies or penalties specified in this Section, in Article X, Section G (Stop Work Orders) of this Zoning Law, in any other Section of this Zoning Law, or in any other applicable law. Any remedy or penalty specified in this Section may be pursued at any time, whether prior to, simultaneously with, or after the pursuit of any other remedy or penalty specified in this Section, in Section G (Stop Work Orders) of this Zoning Law, in any other Section of this Zoning Law, or in any other applicable law. In particular, but not by way of limitation, each remedy and penalty specified in this Section shall be in addition to, and not in substitution for or limitation of, the penalties specified in subdivision (2) of Section 381 of the Executive Law, and any remedy or penalty specified in this Section may be pursued at any time, whether prior to, simultaneously with, or after the pursuit of any penalty specified in subdivision (2) of Section 381 of the Executive Law. [\[Back\]](#)

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S. Fees.

A fee schedule shall be established by resolution of the Town Board of this Town. Such fee schedule may thereafter be amended from time to time by like resolution. The fees set forth in, or determined in accordance with, such fee schedule or amended fee schedule shall be charged and collected for the submission of applications, the issuance of Building Permits, amended Building Permits, renewed Building Permits, Certificates of Occupancy, Certificate of Use, Temporary Certificates, Operating Permits, fire safety and property maintenance inspections, and other actions of the Code Enforcement Officer and ZEO described in or contemplated by this Zoning Law.

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T. Intermunicipal Agreements.

The Town Board of this Town may, by resolution, authorize the Town Supervisor to enter into an agreement, in the name of this Town, with other governments to carry out the terms of this Zoning Law, provided that such agreement does not violate any provision of the Uniform Code, the Energy Code, Part 1203 of Title 19 of the NYCRR, or any other applicable law. [\[Back\]](#)

U. Reimbursement for Professional Services.

The Code Enforcement Officer or the Zoning Enforcement Officer may, in their discretion, employ the services of the Town Engineer, Consulting Engineer, Surveyor, the Town Attorney or other professional consultant to assist the officer in the performance of its duties pursuant to this Article. In that event, the property owner or permit holder shall be responsible for complying with the provision of Article XIV of this Zoning Law relating to the reimbursement to the Town for professional services and the establishment of an escrow account. [\[Back\]](#)