

## Appendix B

### Results of Survey

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# THE RHINEBECK PLAN

MANY VOICES. COMMON GROUND.

The Town of Rhinebeck Comprehensive Plan Committee conducted a Public Opinion Survey during November and December of 2003. The Survey was mailed to approximately 3,500 landowners, and additional 300 surveys were distributed at Town Hall, the libraries, or were delivered to multi-family developments. Additional copies of the survey were available for downloading on the Internet. A total of 764 surveys were returned for a response rate of about 20 percent. The Survey below is exactly as it was presented to Town residents together with the number of responses to each question or statement.

**For each of the following statements, please place a checkmark in the box that best represents your opinions:**

## 1. Community Character

	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion/Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Rhinebeck's rural/small town atmosphere is a major strength.	642	115	2	6	2
The Hudson River waterfront is one of Rhinebeck's best features.	321	288	72	71	7
Rhinebeck should strive to be a socially, culturally, and economically diverse community.	313	278	100	51	16
Rhinebeck should encourage opportunities for arts and culture.	340	298	78	39	6
Rhinebeck's history and architecture are worthy of preservation.	542	194	18	11	0
It is important to enhance and maintain the unique qualities of the Hamlet of Rhinecliff.	356	292	99	14	2
Providing a quality education for Rhinebeck's children is good for our community.	465	247	37	7	3
Rhinebeck would be better if it were more suburban than rural.	21	31	52	237	415
Design standards and Greenway principles should be integrated into Rhinebeck's Zoning Law.	315	203	143	47	31

**To help guide us in developing recommendations for managing and addressing community resources, we would like your ideas on the importance of each of the following:**

	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important	Undecided
Aquifers and other water supply areas	495	184	48	10	16
Architecture and historic buildings	429	239	78	14	0
Critical Environmental Areas like wildlife habitats and other ecologically important areas	435	228	79	18	3
Farms and prime agricultural soils	430	251	64	14	3
Forested lands	446	254	55	5	1
Hudson River waterfront	431	248	71	9	4
Northern Dutchess Hospital	389	257	98	16	4
Open space	473	224	50	11	2
Parks with ball fields and picnic areas, public buildings and other public lands	268	281	174	30	8
Rhinecliff Morton Memorial Library	192	254	197	76	39
River access for boating and swimming	241	264	184	53	16
Scenic roads (including unpaved roads) and scenic landscapes	387	256	98	18	3
Starr Library	358	260	110	28	6
Stone walls	287	230	191	48	7
Trees along roads	384	251	108	21	2
Village center	502	193	53	13	2
Wetlands and stream corridors	373	238	121	19	8
Other _____	110	17	1	1	2

## 2. Development and Business

Rhinebeck should stay rural by guiding growth to areas around the Village and hamlets.

Strongly Agree  
Agree  
No Opinion/Unsure  
Disagree  
Strongly Disagree

406 219 53 37 13

“Big-box” retail businesses are not appropriate in Rhinebeck.

548 117 42 34 15

Rhinebeck should promote local independent businesses rather than national chains.

519 163 40 29 6

Rhinebeck should discourage strip commercial development along roads.

578 119 29 24 10

The agricultural industry in the Town should be encouraged and protected as much as possible.

467 226 40 17 5

Undeveloped open space should be preserved in new developments.

441 206 55 29 17

A variety of housing for all income levels is needed in the Town.

326 241 94 69 31

Rhinebeck should encourage senior citizen housing.

245 289 146 67 14

Rhinebeck should encourage businesses that serve local needs.

426 298 31 6 1

Rhinebeck should continue to encourage home based businesses.

304 298 119 29 5

Growth around Rhinecliff should be sensitive to the hamlet’s unique characteristics.

388 275 68 17 7

It’s time for Rhinebeck to grow larger and become more urbanized.

28 25 41 173 491

Tourism plays an important role in our economic base.

281 361 81 26 14

Rhinebeck should take steps to preserve its historic buildings and features.

461 251 37 12 3

Rhinebeck should preserve agricultural and open space lands.

447 256 43 11 3

New development should aim to expand the tax base.

151 266 186 71 63

New development should maintain rural character.

420 279 36 10 5

New development, like Ruge’s Subaru or the Route 9 Mobil station, should make Rhinebeck more attractive.

234 246 126 74 52

New development on major roads should be designed to be village-like and pedestrian friendly.

433 261 40 14 6

Rhinebeck should avoid new development that requires wider roads or more traffic lanes.

422 204 69 41 22

Rhinebeck should influence land use decisions in other towns that affect our quality of life.

260 270 143 50 21

As long as new development is compatible with Rhinebeck’s character, we need more:

- ▶ Bed and breakfasts
- ▶ Small scale shopping
- ▶ Light industrial development like computer parts manufacturing
- ▶ Single-family housing
- ▶ Two-family housing
- ▶ Multi-family housing
- ▶ Townhouses or condominiums
- ▶ Business use of the Route 9 corridor
- ▶ Business use of the Route 9G corridor
- ▶ Business use of the Route 308 corridor
- ▶ Service businesses like repair shops, professional, or personal services
- ▶ Any commercial development that enhances the community
- ▶ Businesses that serve the needs of visitors and tourists

82 184 258 158 56

139 336 124 109 34

65 199 187 167 127

121 302 172 94 49

52 188 217 171 105

56 121 181 207 173

48 148 170 182 184

49 181 169 171 165

58 182 165 163 171

27 122 161 201 219

111 330 173 83 43

87 265 176 100 101

90 261 167 137 84

3. Our Red Hook neighbors placed great value on agriculture and open space in their Town by voting to use local tax dollars to preserve such lands. Should Rhinebeck follow this example?

- Yes (515)                       No (100)                       Don’t Know (137)

4. If you were to purchase or build a new home in Rhinebeck, what would you consider an affordable price?

- Under \$75,000 (10)                       \$176,000 to \$250,000 (286)  
 \$76,000 to \$125,000 (40)                       Over \$250,000 (204)  
 \$126,000 to 175,000 (143)                       Don’t know (67)

Where would you prefer to locate your new home?

- Village of Rhinebeck                       Rural location  
 Hamlet of Rhinecliff                       Riverside/lakefront  
 A new subdivision                       Other \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Community Services and Transportation

- Town roads should be designed & maintained so that pedestrians and bicyclists can safely use them.
- New development should include facilities for pedestrians and public transit.
- Rhinebeck should provide walking paths, bike, and hiking trails.
- Rhinebeck should pursue development of the historic Hucklebush rail line as a Rail-Trail.
- Rhinebeck should encourage development of horse trails.
- Rhinebeck should remain a pedestrian friendly village.
- The Town and Village should work together to share services.
- The Town should work with the Village to expand community water and sewer services.
- The Town, Village, and School District should work together to provide recreational facilities.
- More recreational opportunities need to be provided for our youth.
- Rhinebeck's schools are an important element in our decision to live in Rhinebeck.
- The School District should provide more up to date facilities for our children's education.
- A youth center is needed for our young people.
- More recreational opportunities need to be provided for our senior citizens.
- More services are needed for senior citizens.
- Rhinebeck should pursue high speed internet access throughout the Town.
- Rhinebeck should encourage expansion of Metro North rail services to Rhinecliff.
- Rhinebeck should encourage expansion of bus services like Trailways to Rhinebeck.
- Rhinebeck should encourage community use of the Fairgrounds.
- A surcharge should be imposed on visitors to the Fairgrounds to benefit the community.
- Rhinebeck should encourage community use of Southlands Farm.
- Rhinebeck should develop sewer services for Rhinecliff.
- Rhinebeck should expand public parking for the Town, Village, and Hamlet of Rhinecliff.

Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion/Unsure	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
437	248	34	34	7
325	265	105	42	9
384	235	80	45	8
244	220	228	32	23
138	203	267	108	34
549	189	17	4	0
473	210	61	6	5
318	214	166	35	16
329	285	89	40	9
214	235	197	81	26
220	163	189	113	62
193	167	256	100	37
131	170	268	118	68
104	206	326	88	30
114	208	333	66	29
191	195	237	86	37
178	185	96	97	197
109	183	200	115	144
263	351	102	24	10
212	189	190	103	55
102	235	327	54	28
103	185	341	63	54
202	266	160	78	49

## 6. Resident Profile

- a. Approximately how many years have you lived in the Town of Rhinebeck?
- 0-5 years (166)       16-25 years (152)       More than 50 years (84)
- 6-15 years (177)       26-50 years (175)       Nonresident landowner (11)
- b. Are you a year-round resident?
- Yes (673)       No (85)
- c. Do you own your home, rent, or just own land in the Town?
- Own (718)       Rent (27)       Landowner only (16)
- If you are a landowner only, please identify the size of your land holdings:
- 10 acres or less       11 to 49 acres       50 acres or more
- d. How many people of each age group are in your household?
- \_\_\_ 0-10      \_\_\_ 18 to 25      \_\_\_ 36 to 50      \_\_\_ over 65
- \_\_\_ 11 to 17      \_\_\_ 26 to 35      \_\_\_ 51 to 65      \_\_\_ retired
- e. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?
- Employed full time (429)       Not currently employed (11)
- Employed part time (75)       Retired (238)
- f. Please indicate where you work below. Check all that apply:
- Village of Rhinebeck (119)       Ulster County (49)       New York Metro Area (116)
- Town of Rhinebeck (106)       Columbia County (21)       Albany Area (12)
- Elsewhere in Dutchess (198)       Orange County (10)       Not working (119)
- City of Kingston (28)       Westchester County (28)       Other (72)

## Community Suggestions

7. What are your three favorite places or buildings in Rhinebeck? Why?

Beekman Arms (#1)

US Post Office (#2)

Upstate Films (#3)

8. What are your three least favorite places or buildings in Rhinebeck? Why?

CVS (#1)

Stop & Shop (#2)

Gas Stations, New Buildings (#3 tied)

9. Please share any ideas you may have for attracting new businesses to Rhinebeck.

See Appendix C

10. Please share your ideas for developing recreational facilities at the Rhineson property.

See Appendix C

11. Please express in your own words what "rural" means to you and whether you think Rhinebeck can still consider itself a rural community.

See Appendix C

12. Please provide any additional ideas you'd like to share with the Committee and its consultants regarding growth and development in the Town.

See Appendix C

Would you be willing to volunteer your time to help the Committee complete the Comprehensive Plan?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide your name and address below. **Providing your name and address is entirely optional.** However, this information makes you eligible for one of the six dinner-for-two raffles (see page 1).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email\* address: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional copies of the questionnaire are available at Town Hall, the Morton Memorial Library, Starr Library, at the Committee's website at [www.TheRhinebeckPlan.org](http://www.TheRhinebeckPlan.org), or by calling the Town Clerk's office at 876-3409. Please return the questionnaire to Town Hall, the Morton Memorial Library, or Starr Library before December 18, 2003 by dropping it off in the box designated for the surveys or by mailing it to:

The Rhinebeck Plan Public Opinion Survey  
Town Hall, 80 East Market Street  
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

\* Your email address will be kept confidential and only used by the Committee to keep you informed of the Plan's progress.