

### Town of Rhinebeck Conservation Advisory Board (CAB) Duties

The CAB examines and recommends measures to improve and protect Rhinebeck's natural environment. It reviews applications before the Planning Board and makes recommendations on environmentally sensitive aspects of those applications. The CAB operates in an advisory role only.

Membership draws interested citizens from across the Rhinebeck community and includes a diversity of talent and expertise. Each member is appointed by the Town Board for a two-year renewable term and serves without compensation, usually meeting every other week or once monthly.

The powers and duties of the Conservation Advisory Board shall be to:

1. Advise various Town agencies on matters affecting the preservation, development and use of the lands listed on the Open Space Index and particularly natural features and conditions of such lands in the Town insofar as aesthetics, quality, biologic integrity and other environmental factors are concerned, including, in the case of human activities and developments, with regard to any major threats posed to environmental quality, so as to enhance the long-range value of the environment to the people of the Town.
2. Develop and conduct a program of public information in the community which shall be designed to foster increased understanding of the nature of environmental problems and issues and support for their solutions.
3. Conduct studies, surveys, and inventories of the natural and man-made features within the Town by updating and maintaining the Town's Natural Resource Inventory and Open Space Map using a computer-based geographic information system (GIS), providing advice using science-based procedures, and conducting such other studies and surveys as may be necessary to carry out the general purposes of this chapter.
4. Maintain an up-to-date inventory or index of all open spaces in public or private ownership within the Town, including but not limited to natural landmarks; glacial and other geomorphic or physiographic features; streams and their floodplains; wetlands; biodiversity and unique biotic communities; scenic and other open spaces of natural or ecological value; and of the ownership, present use and proposed use of such areas, so as to provide a base of information for recommendations by the Conservation Advisory Board for their preservation and/or use.
5. Seek to coordinate, assist, and unify the efforts of private groups, institutions, and individuals with the Town in accord with the purposes of this chapter.
6. Communicate and act as liaison with public and private agencies and organizations of local, state, and national scope whose programs and activities have an impact on the quality of the environment or who can be of assistance to the Conservation Advisory Board.
7. Obtain and maintain in an orderly and timely fashion maps, reports, books, and other publications to support the necessary research of the Conservation Advisory Board into local environmental conditions in a space at Town Hall with access to a photocopy machine, fax machine, and a Town computer configured with the Town's GIS system.

8. Further assist the Town in the development of sound environmental planning and ensure preservation of natural and scenic resources on the local level throughout the Town as follows:

(a) Review each proposed application for action by the Town Board or by the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals which seeks approval for the use or development of open space...

(b) Submit a written report promptly to the referral body after receipt by the Conservation Advisory Board of such application, so that the referral body will have the report prior to substantive consideration of the application, but in no event later than 30 days after receipt by the Conservation Advisory Board of such application...

(c) Make available for public inspection at the office of the Conservation Advisory Board copies of all such reports of the Conservation Advisory Board.

(d) Carry out the tasks and responsibilities conferred upon the Conservation Advisory Council in Chapter 3 of the Town of Rhinebeck Comprehensive Plan, as adopted on December 29, 2009, as may be amended from time to time.

(e) Exercise any of the functions and responsibilities heretofore granted to the Conservation Advisory Council as hereinabove stated, including acting as the Waterfront Advisory Council pursuant to Chapter 118.

(f) Nothing herein shall prevent the Town Board or other Town agency or department from requesting advice from the Conservation Advisory Board.

Working in cooperation with the Planning Board, a designated member of the Conservation Advisory Board shall attend said Planning Board meetings and provide to the Planning Board the Conservation Advisory Board's recommendations concerning features, plans and programs relating to environmental planning. The Conservation Advisory Board shall also review industrial, commercial, institutional and subdivision proposals for their environmental impact, and similarly recommend to the Town Board appropriate and desirable changes in existing local laws and ordinances relating to environmental conservation or recommend new local laws and ordinances.