



VILLAGE OF RHINEBECK

May 9, 2023

Town of Rhinebeck Planning Board
80 East Market St
Rhinebeck, NY 12572

Members of the Town of Rhinebeck Planning Board,

I'm writing to withdraw the Village's application to build an aerated static pile composting operation at the Village's Highway Department property.

My sincere thanks to the Town Planning Board for keeping an open mind and hearing the facts about what a small-scale ASP operation would entail. Your objectivity and dedication to the Planning Board are admirable. Thank you especially to Edna Lachmund who visited the ASP facility in Westchester and saw and smelled for herself that a well-managed ASP facility does not attract wildlife or stink. Unfortunately, none of the neighbors took me up on the offer to visit the site and see for themselves.

I believe our application was valid and would have been a proper use of the property according to Town Code. The Village submitted the original grant applications and the Town Planning Board application after discussion with, and the apparent support of the Town Board. Now, given the apparent opposition expressed by the Town Board at its May 8, 2023 meeting, I don't see a path forward given how the project has been undermined and misinformation spread. I don't believe any future taxpayer dollars should be used in defense of a lawsuit where the Town is actively working against the Village and aligning with neighbors who oppose the project.

I sincerely regret we will not be able to provide this beneficial service to the community of Rhinebeck at this site. It would have been a leading example of a municipality taking steps to address the climate crisis and making a renewable resource out of food waste and recycled yard waste.

We will continue our environmental work, our greenhouse gas emissions inventory and Climate Action Plan, flood mitigation, Safe Routes to School and more. I hope the town will partner with the village in the future. I don't think this is the end of our composting story. It's just time to regroup.

Sincerely,


Vanessa Bertozzi
Village of Rhinebeck Trustee