

Pat Coon

From: Frank Stoppenbach <frankst@attglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, May 08, 2019 10:06 PM
To: Pat Coon
Subject: Table rules for parking area near Rhinebeck Farmers Market - comment

I appreciate Village Clerk Pat Coon explaining the Village's new rules on tabling at the parking area near the Farmers Market, and the opportunity to comment on the same.

The rules appear to set a limit of one non-profit table per Sunday, and create a procedure for reserving a Sunday spot. It seems that two entities, the local Republican and Democratic political committees, have reserved all the Sundays, alternately, well into the future.

Whatever the original intent, the effect is to limit greatly opportunity for political discussion. I recall past Sundays when multiple tables happily coexisted.

Perhaps the political committees wanted to insure that proper attention would be given to local offices during a political calendar with town and county elections.

But, as a former president observed, we should be able to do more than just one thing at a time. In at least the case of the Democratic Party, during 2019 there will be critical debates, organization, outreach and fundraising for, at last count, 21 potential presidential nominees. Even in the case of the Republican Party, at least one former governor has announced intention to run.

The attempt to limit political outreach to what two political committees decide denies voters the information needed to make the decision that can determine the future for our people, for our families.

I urge the Village to loosen these very restrictive rules so that a variety of views and candidates can be offered at tables to those passing through the public parking area.

Sincerely,
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