

Peekskill Conservation Advisory Council December 2025 Meeting
January 9th, 2025 6:30 p.m.

Admin:

- Call to Order
- Attendance (Taken from Zoom Participants List): Janine Melillo, Courtney Williams, Deborah Bliss, Dwight Douglas, Lise Prown, Emma Kaminski (CEEP), Chandu Visweswariah (Guest Speaker)
- November minutes Approved
- In need of a new member and a secretary! Interviews are slated for a new member in February.

Announcements

[WASS](#) - chosen by WEACT for Environmental Justice Community Voices Cohort TCTAC (money from EPA to help EJ communities combat env racism and receive technical help on grant support). WASS is focusing on Peekskill + 4 other EJ Communities and the February meeting. Municipalities can use these services to help apply for grants. Looking for municipal attendance.

[Register here](#) for the First meeting about TCTAC on Wednesday 02/12 at 7:30 pm on zoom.

Guest Speaker: [Chandu Visweswariah](#), **A discussion on accelerating renewable energy expansion via local actions**

Contact: chanduviz@gmail.com for slides and bringing the presentation to other groups

Ongoing Projects

Tree Planting Grant info session attended by Lise

- The grant appears to be for a much bigger muni that has a forest publicly accessible within its boundaries. Another grant is coming online in 6 months, which will be much more relevant to Peekskill and will be able to leverage the tree inventory and management plan
- WASS WEACT for Environmental Justice Community Voices Cohort TCTAC & Peekskill Grant Applications: If you need help getting an expert to do x work, WASS will connect you to that. Fill out the intake form on WASS website describing need and the issue you are attempting to address. This help could be used in tree planting and teacher's park grant applications.

Follow-Up on Local Tree Plantings

- Chris says the plantings donated by Chappy are about halfway done, looking to secure the tree maintenance budget.

Climate Action Planning Institute - Adaptation Chapter

- A list of 8 climate adaptation strategies have been put together based on the results of the climate adaptation survey, the hazard mitigation plan, and the input/workshops with the Hudson Valley Regional Council.
- Please provide feedback on the attached list of strategies

- A meeting with Emergency Response stakeholders from Peekskill Municipal Staff is being scheduled to incorporate their feedback and expertise.

Earth Day + Arbor Day Event

- Eocene, tree inventory company, is doing community outreach, Lise suggested a tree planting workshop at the arbor day event.
- At the next Park meeting, communicating with Jonathan where this will take place, securing a location for this event before we start the event planning
- Let's organize what materials the CAC wants to bring; **what messages/issues/projects would we like to talk to attendees about?**
- Who is willing to give opening remarks at the event?
- Add to 2025 goals: tabling at different events and being a presence at community events
- ConEd Attendance and tree donations? Do an exhibit of poorly managed trees due to planting locations that infringe on ConEd wires to raise awareness about spacing issues. Showcase species that are appropriate size/height/manageability for around wires.

Depew Park Renovations

- Deb and Jan met with constructors for Depew Park updates. Letter of Support from the CAC was provided to the State.
- Concerns were raised during their community session on the plans to renovate.
- They have been invited to report at the February CAC meeting, addressing these concerns. Concerns over poured rubber, environmentally unsafe materials being used when there are alternatives available, and the CAC has let these concerns be known long ago.
- CAC may want to do some advocating for a renovation that is as environmentally-friendly as possible, and to put the renovators in touch with the NRI and tree inventory.
- New City Parks is the name of the company doing park renovations

Notes

- Goals Document discussion is tabled for the next meeting in February
- Await minutes which include guest speaker slides and CAPI Adapt Strategies List
- Email Courtney if you would like to attend the Hollowbrook Waterwatch meet in her stead