

Peekskill Conservation Advisory Council February 2025 Meeting

February 13th, 2025 6:30 p.m.

Admin:

- Call to Order
- Attendance (Taken from Zoom Participants List): Janine Melillo, Courtney Williams, Deborah Bliss, Lise Prown, Emma Kaminski (CEEP), Sarah Aparicio, Kay Barthelmes
- January 2025 minutes Approved
- In need of new members and a secretary!
- Ian & Carmen will be departing the PCAC

Announcements

WASS - chosen by WEACT for Environmental Justice Community Voices Cohort TCTAC (money from EPA to help EJ communities combat environmental 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.

CANCELLED New City Parks - the Depew Park Revitalization Project Guest speakers. They will reach back out in April to receive CAC input.

Recruitment efforts needed to fill 3 open seats!

- Organizing a morning of “tabling” at the Peekskill Coffee House and/or at the compost drop off site
- Idea: Set up a recurring event with the CAC zoom link open to the public; interested community members can join and get a sense of what CAC meetings look like.
- Reach out to people you know who you think would be a good fit and encourage them to apply
- In the March meeting we can set specific recruitment dates
- Next Saturday zero waste event at the schools, can table for the CAC there

Ongoing Projects

[Ongoing Projects Spreadsheet](#)

[PCAC Goals Document](#)

- New addition: education of city residents

CEEP Update

- Municipal Investment Fund Phase I application for City to ICLEI and the Coalition for Green Capital
- These funds are intended to fill gaps in capacity and technical expertise to create roadmaps for public-private partnerships which make NCIF projects (clean energy projects) possible

Meeting with City Manager on Monday 02/09

- Tree Ordinance suggestions reviewed, another meeting scheduled for March with Chris Gross and Carol Samol
- Food Scraps structure is planning to be built by new hire in DPW
- 7 trees planted by DPW
- City website changes: agendas and minutes being posted. ***NEED: rewrite of the CAC description and explanation of what we do**** Current about us is outdated. Kay will take a look at a rewrite. Pamphlets are not loading - error 404

New Method of Approving Minutes

- After meetings, Emma will send all members the minutes, members respond with yes or no, suggestions, etc. Then the minutes will be posted to the City website ASAP.

Lake Mitchell Sustainable Practices

- New maintenance proposed at Lake including chemical treatment of the lake. J Zamora reached out for CAC input
- Suggestions to use the previously used more natural treatment methods, which are also less expensive. Previous method for preventing algae was treatment with competitive bacteria, barley islands, and straw added. Money is better spent remediating the phragmites- how can this be done without an excavator?
- City Manager arranged meeting between the former lake manager, Jan, and J. Zamora

Education and Tabling

- Events to table at spring, summer, fall: Need members to step up to carry out all steps needed to plan and cover these events; below are members who are looking into events.
 - Rotary Club Cherry Blossom Festival 5/3 - Jan
 - Farmer's Market - Kay
 - 2025 collaboration with Anthony Carbone, Farmer's Market, and food scraps drop off. This year: do not want to attend every single farmer's market meeting.
 - Hispanic Heritage Festival - Jan
 - Arbor Day Event with Parks & Rec 04/26
 - Deb and Lise are working with parks
 - Saturday Academy MAarch 15, and possibly, April 26 and May 31 - Kay, Deb, Courtney; Jan is available, as needed.
 - Is a zero waste event which collects food scraps
 - Also recruit students! They can get some volunteer hours helping table and set up for the CAC
 - Set up a demo for kids with microscopes to explain food scraps process
 - Event is designed to be activities between kids and parents
 - Ask Anthony for some bags of compost to use in demo
 - Ask Travis at WASS for demo materials
 - Earth Day (PHS, nearby municipalities?)
 - Other events: Irish Fest, Nashkill

Teacher's Park

- Mockup created by Lise
- Send this information to Matt to get permission to work on grant applications, provide updates on
- TCTAC is a great resource to help us apply for grant funds
- Create a draft explaining email to send with Matt - send to Jan who will pass it along



Notes

Hollowbrook Water Watch is putting out a grant and needs volunteers - reach out to Courtney if interested. Watershed Group Capacity building - pairing volunteers with a facilitator to develop a specific plan for care, and one action will be selected from the plan and implemented. Volunteers should expect to commit 6-8 hours for regular meetings and 3-5 hours of additional work hours. Anyone interested in the regular meetings can also reach out to Courtney!

HWW is coming to the March meeting to clarify and discuss the group's plans and asks.