

# Peekskill Conservation Advisory Council - Meeting Notes

**Date:** 06/12/2025

**Attendees:** Janine Melillo, Kimberly Easlick, Deborah Bliss, Dana Freedenfeld, Courtney M. Williams, Dwight Douglas, Elaine Caccoma, Lise Prown, Sarah Aparicio

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## 1. Capital Budget Annual Feedback

- **Proposal:** Consider adding an annual meeting with the City Manager about the city budget to the calendar for late spring/early summer (May 2026 suggested).
- **Why:** Opportunity to provide feedback and express support for budget items. Examples, feedback on materials used for new playground updates and tree planting. Also allows us to see how the city is prioritizing upcoming projects.
- **Feedback:** General agreement.
- **Next steps:**
  - Jan has a meeting scheduled with Matt for feedback (date?)
  - Schedule May 2026 meeting (who/how, etc.?)

## 2. Letter of Support for the Depew Park Project

- **Summary:** Letter of support needed. Content will depend on whether previous concerns, such as bike damage, electric bike use, and pedestrian safety, are addressed.
- **Next step:** Jan will send Sarah two documents to merge for a letter of support.

## 3. Community Tabling & Events

### Peekskill Pride, Family Pride in the Park - 06/28/2025

- **Update:** Zero waste center has been approved. WASS open to sharing their table (currently shared with Peekskill 100)
- **Next step:** Need a volunteer to explain the proper waste categories. Contact Jan if interested. Time commitment, 1 hour.

### **Peekskill Farmers Market - Saturdays, 06/07/2025 to 11/22/2025**

- **Proposal:** Availability to share space with Parks & Rec at the City's official table. Consider being present multiple times over the summer to share information, promote composting, and engage with residents.
- **Feedback:** Concerns over multiple recruitment efforts at one table can be overwhelming.
- **Next steps:**
  - Determine dates to attend Farmers Market.
  - Make a decision on whether to have your own table next year.

## Other Tabling Ideas

- **YAY! Markets**: Currently hosts two markets, Mother's YAY and HOLIYAY!
  - **Next step:** Determine interest in attending the next market (HOLIYAY!). Info on community tents available [here](#).
- **Peekskill Regeneration Farm**: Interest in attending events (specifically giveaway events and volunteer events).
  - **Next step:** Determine interest in attending events. Events calendar available [here](#).

## 4. Welcome new CEEP liaison

- **Summary:** Kim (they/them) will be interning with CEEP for 4-6 months.
- **Contact info:** [coordinator@ceepartnership.org](mailto:coordinator@ceepartnership.org)
- **Appreciation gift:** \$5-10 for gift card for Emma.
  - **Next step:** Jan will send Venmo and Zelle details.

## 5. Lake Mitchell Management Update

- **Update:** Follow-up email sent confirming support and past concerns. Attempting to influence how the lake will be maintained and sustainability managed. Dredging and repair included in 2026 capital budget.

## 6. Meeting Scheduling

- **Summary:** Will meet in July and cancel the August meeting.

## 7. Ongoing & New Projects

### Free Compost Giveaway

- **Update:** Compost (delivered by Anthony) was a success at Depew Park. Event was low-effort (as it was self-serve) and well received. Potential to make this an annual event.

- **Next step:** Consider using this event for community outreach and CAC recruitment for next year. Possibly providing flyers for compost recipients with CAC information if we are unable to have volunteers to attend.

### **Mothapalooza**

- **Update:** Event approved.
- **Next step:** Add to the calendar.

### **Downtown Revitalization Initiative**

- **Update:** DRI project to redo art by Peekskill Brewery. Concerns that trees may obstruct planned updates, which would result in pruning.
- **Next step:** Dwight will consult with the arborist to assess possible pruning strategies.

### **Depew Park Cleanup Initiative**

- **Proposal:** Explore organizing a Depew Park Cleanup Day. Noted pruning is needed and suggested a garden club initiative. Parks Board is also reaching out to organize smaller cleanups in local communities.
- **Next steps:**
  - Consider partnering with local groups who regularly organize cleanups. [Link](#) to Peekskill Clean Routine Facebook group and [article](#) about their efforts.
  - Coordinate with DPW

### **Pollinator Garden Project**

- **Update:** We have until December to make sure that we satisfy the restoration of pollinator gardens in the city. CEEP will help organize the project.
- **Next step:** Add to July agenda to discuss project planning.