



Peekskill Farmers Market Operational History

The Peekskill Farmers Market is an institution that has served the Peekskill community for more than 25 years with access to fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh baked goods and organic options. The governing body of the market is the Peekskill Business Improvement District, which is independent of the City of Peekskill.

The City of Peekskill's Planning & Development Office proposed the creation of a farmers market to give local residents a reason to come into downtown at a time when retail stores were closing or relocating to the malls. Originally managed by the Chamber of Commerce, the BID took over management of the market about 15 years ago--with the same strengthened purpose: to bring people into downtown.

Over the years, the Peekskill Farmers Market became a Saturday morning destination and served as a community gathering place where neighbors could chat with each other and newcomers could meet new friends. Backed by New York State, farmers markets were purposed to help struggling NYS farmers, aid in revitalizing city centers and provide easier access to healthy food choices to all New Yorkers regardless of income level.

Today, the BID oversees the market, provides marketing and advertising support, acts as a liaison to the City of Peekskill and the downtown business community, and selects and hires a consultant to manage the day-to-day operations of the market. The BID's Executive Director is responsible for the oversight of the market and its staff on behalf of the board.

The part-time paid manager/consultant receives a base salary, plus a percentage of the net profits, if there are any, at the market's conclusion. The consultant is subject to an annual renewal each year and is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the market.

The Peekskill Farmers Market operates outdoors from May through November, rain or shine, on Bank Street. A modest indoor winter version (generally running from January to April) has been held indoors in recent years as well.

The market has also served as an incubator for small business development and is proud to have had several vendors expand their business into other markets and retail locations. It is the perfect place for entrepreneurs to try out their products and get important real-time customer feedback.

Farmers market policies and procedures and annual applications can be found at www.discoverpeekskill.com under the markets tab. The policies are reviewed and updated yearly to reflect the New York State Department of Agriculture changes in farmers market policies and adoption of best practices.

For questions concerning the BID or the Farmers Market, please email the Executive Director at peekskillbid1@gmail.com.