



**Peekskill Business Improvement District
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2025 @ 6pm
Peekskill City Hall First Floor Conference Room
840 Main Street, Peekskill, NY 10566**

Present: Richard Rogers, President; Roger Campos, Vice President; Councilman Brian Fassett; David Kaminsky; Paddy Neville; Matt Rudikoff; Chuck Lesnick. Executive Director Bill Powers.

Absent: Toni Tracy, Treasurer; Deb Milone, Secretary; John Sharp; Wilson Narvaez, Jr. Drew Claxton; David Abrevaya.

Call December 2, 2025 Board of Directors meeting to order – Pres. Richard Rogers called the meeting to order at 6pm. Brian Fassett has Deb Milone's proxy.

Guests: Regina Clarkin and Natalie Skvarla – Peekskill Herald and Exurbanist Manager

- Ms. Clarkin introduced herself as the publisher and stated that Bruce Apar was the editor. Ms. Skvarla was introduced as handling Exurbanist. She stated that the Herald is a non-profit and relies on subscriptions, memberships and donations. She said she needs the support of the business community. The BID Board expressed concerns about the Herald's editorial and stated that coverage of things like murders, stabbings and drug arrests negatively impacts business in the downtown, especially restaurants and spurs long negative posts about Peekskill. Some board members acknowledged the Herald's right to cover issues, but took exception to the recent news article concerning a rumor that Birdsall was going to close. Exec. Dir. Powers questioned the news judgment of reporting rumors and how damaging such coverage can impact a business. Ms. Clarkin explained her editorial policies and acknowledged the concerns of the business community. There was additional discussion about the Herald's taking over the Exurbanist and its plans to continue the Exurbanists' purpose of promoting happenings and events. Exec. Dir. Powers said he would set up a meeting to discuss social media cooperation after we get started on the BID's 2026 social media. The board thanked both for attending the meeting and for listening to the business community's concerns and both left the meeting.

BID Member Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Approval November 5, 2025 BID Board of Director's Meeting Minutes – Pres Rogers asked for a motion to approve the November 5, 2025 BID Board of Director's Meeting Minutes. Motion by Councilman Fassett, seconded by Board Member Neville, all in favor.

Approval of 2026 Meeting Dates – Pres Rogers asked for a motion to approve the 2026 Board Meeting dates. Motion by Vice President Campos; seconded by Councilman Fassett; all in favor.

Appoint 2026 Election Committee – Richard Rogers asked for motion to approve the 2026 Election Committee. Appointed to the committee: Richard Rogers, Roger Campos, Drew Claxton, Chuck Lesnick, Toni Tracy. Motion by Vice President Campos; seconded by Councilman Fassett; all in favor.

Social Media Report – Pres. Richard Rogers gave the monthly social media report.

- Bill shared more than 75 social media posts from BID restaurants, retailers, nonprofits like

CHHOP, and City of Peekskill information.

- The BID posted 14 original posts and reels.
- Our contract with Evan ended, and the new contract, approved by our attorney, was signed this month and Enormous Creative took over the controls last week and is focused on the holiday promotions. tree lighting New Year's.
- The social media committee will be scheduling a meeting with Enormous to go over social media plans for next year.
- Bill posted the article on Azteca Deli on Facebook and it reached over 10,000 views. We have three more articles ready to be posted before the end of the year.

Artist District Report – Board Member David Abrevaya was unable to attend the meeting and was excused due to a family matter.

City of Peekskill Update – Councilman Brian Fassett gave his city report:

- Council received (11/10/25) a year-in-review presentation from Regeneration Farms and approved Amanda Armenteros (current operator) to take over the lease agreement from Ecological Citizens Project.
- Council approved the closure of the street for the Reindeer run on December 6; however, the event's organizers have canceled the run and now it's just a toy drop-off.
- Council approved the issuance of an RFP (using grant money) for a professional planner and an architectural consultant to review plans for a Community Hub Downtown Campus on existing city-owned property, including 4 Nelson (library building) and the youth bureau building.
- Council approved the PFDC to request approval from the US Economic Development Administration to approve the construction bids for the Peekskill Firehouse Kitchen Incubator.
- Council approved an updated Verizon franchise agreement.
- Council held a public hearing and passed a local law extending the moratorium on Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) over 80 kW.
- Council approved emergency funding to provide Emergency SNAP Meals and distribution to the city of Peekskill residents left without SNAP benefits. (program has since concluded, as benefits have now been restored).
- Council held multiple public hearings and approved a local law to define and establish a downtown Payment-In-Lieu-Of-Parking program to assist with residential development and the necessary associated parking in city-owned parking facilities.
- Council approved and passed local law to break the tax cap and the approval of the council budget for 2026.
- Council approved a street closure for the Holiday Market on Railroad Avenue for Sat/Sun, December 13th and 14th – 8am to 6pm.
- Council approved the contract for fireworks for New Year's Eve downtown display – cost of \$8,500.
- Council approved the contract for fireworks for July 4 - cost of \$50,925.
- Council approved issuance of RFP for engineering services for improvements to four intersections – part of the momentum fun infrastructure investment program – (1) Main and

Nelson, (2) Main and N. Division, (3) Main and Bank, (4) S. Division and Brown. Budgeted improvements include, but are not limited to: new traffic and pedestrian signals, including preemptive signaling; ADA curb ramps; pigmented, stamped, high-visibility crosswalks; and curb-to-curb paving at intersections and approaches. Staff will also review site-specific pedestrian safety measures at each intersection.

- Council approved the issuance of RFP for Fleischmann Pier commercial boat operators and pier management services.
- Council approved a new Green Purchasing Policy along with implementing a Green Fleet Policy.
- Council approved an emergency masonry repair for the Paramount Theater.
- Council received a presentation of our street tree inventory at last night's meeting.
- Council approved street closure for Peekskill Middle School graduation at the Paramount on June 25 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- Council approved seven religious processions for Assumption Church – January 1, April 3, June 12, August 15, October 4, December 12, December 27 – each event will still require the application for and issuance of a permit.
- Council has reviewed the 2026 fee schedule multiple times. Most fees will go up about 3%; some larger jumps will be seen in planning fees that involve escrow reviews and outside consultants. We also worked on building permit renewal fees and options. The current renewal fee is 50% of the original permit cost. We will now have three renewal options: 1st renewal: 5% with a max Residential \$150, Commercial \$1,000; 2nd renewal: 10% with a max Residential \$250, Commercial \$2,000; and 3rd renewal: 25% with a max Residential \$250 and Commercial \$2,000. After three extensions, it will be 50%. (or resubmission).
- Council scheduled a public hearing for December 22 on a local law to amend the city code to form a Senior Citizen Advisory Council.
- Winter Parking is in effect through April 1, 2026.
- The Field Library is looking to relocate to the first floor of 41 N. Division – you can read about this in the Peekskill Herald. Keep in mind that the Library is a city tenant, and the city has limited say over its operations. The agreement they are making is with the building's owner.

Economic Development Report – Economic Development Specialist Matt Rudikoff

- Fleischmann's Pier RFP future boat operations and pier manager is under review by staff before December release.
- Logo's second review of design presented has had a positive response for advisory group and council input.
- West Point marketing pamphlet ready for West Point Visitors Center Pamphlet rack; other marketing materials under consideration.
- Public Art Trail Map placement and deployment of new signs complete.
- City-wide database of city businesses finalized and first survey to be sent out.
- PIDA/PFDC – PFKI has requested USEDA for permission to award bids; PIDA and City are negotiating PILOT for 901 Main Street sale, rehab and PILOT application.

- Wayfinding signage installed, nearly completed. It was pointed out that some of the new signs are being blocked by others.
- 41 North Division Street (Childrens Village project) partnering with Field Library to move library there. Exec. Dir. Powers asked to have a small theater for community use included in the library's move.
- City planning for HVGCC March 5 City Presentation.

Request for funding – Peekskill New Year's Eve - \$500 – Bill Powers presented the request from Kenny Lewis for \$500 to be transferred from the BID as sponsor to the City's NYE account. Asked for a motion to approve, motion by Roger Campos, seconded by Councilman Fassett, all in favor.

Executive Director's Report – Exec. Dir. Bill Powers gave his report:

- Tree lighting is going to be a great community event; all invited to come up on stage, Saturday, December 5, 2025 at 4pm.
- Farmers Market wrapped up.
- Flea Market is extended on Sundays through December 21, 2025.
- BID renewal in 2026.
- Presented emergency request from the Peekskill Arts Alliance seeking funding for emergency portable heater so that they can have the Arts Boutique and Big Art Show in the Ford Piano building. After speaking with both David Abrevaya and Larry D'Amico earlier, we developed a game plan to make this happen. The BID board unanimously approved up to \$1,200 to cover the portable heater (estimate received by Larry) so the PAA's plans can move forward as long as the TCO is approved at Ford Piano. Motion made by Board Member Rudikoff, seconded by Vice President Campos, all in favor.

BID Member Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Adjournment – Pres. Richard Rogers asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Councilman Fassett, seconded by Vice President Campos, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.