

Chapter 24. CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

[HISTORY: Adopted by the Common Council of the City of Peekskill 7-11-2011. *Editor's Note: This resolution also repealed former Ch. 24, Conservation and Parks Advisory Council, adopted 9-30-2002 by L.L. No. 5-2002 (Ch. 19 of the 1984 Code). Amendments noted where applicable.*]

§ 24-1. Establishment.

A Conservation Advisory Council for the City of Peekskill is hereby established pursuant to Article 12-F of the General Municipal Law.

§ 24-2. Composition.

The Conservation Advisory Council shall consist of seven members, who shall be appointed by the Common Council and who shall serve at the pleasure of the Common Council. A City employee will be assigned by the City Manager to attend meetings to act as Recording Secretary.

§ 24-3. Terms of office; compensation.

A. Of the first seven members appointed to the Conservation Advisory Council, four shall serve for a term of one year each and three shall serve for a term of two years each. Thereafter each member shall serve for a term of two years. The Common Council shall designate the Chair of the Conservation Advisory Council from among the appointed members.

B. The Conservation Advisory Council shall elect its own Vice Chair and Corresponding Secretary from among the members. The Common Council may remove any member of the Conservation Advisory Council for cause after public hearing. Vacancies shall be filled by the Common Council for the unexpired term of the vacant seat. The Conservation Advisory Council shall serve without compensation.

§ 24-4. Powers and duties.

The Conservation Advisory Council shall have the following powers and duties, subject to City funding:

- A. To conduct researches into the land area of the municipality for which it was created.
- B. To seek to coordinate the activities of unofficial bodies organized for similar purposes and to cooperate with other official City bodies active in the area of community planning for the City of Peekskill.

- C. To advertise, prepare, print and distribute books, maps, charts, plans and pamphlets.
- D. To keep an inventory and map, as defined in § 239-y of Article 12-F of the General Municipal Law, of all open areas within the City of Peekskill with the plan of obtaining information pertinent to proper utilization of such open lands, including lands owned by the state, any other municipality within the state or by the City of Peekskill itself.
- E. To keep an inventory and map of all open marshlands, swamps and all other wetlands in a like manner, and it may recommend to the Common Council a program for ecologically suitable utilization of all such areas.
- F. To help build awareness and support for the management and protection of Peekskill's natural resources and parks, including but not limited to recommending, on referral from the Common Council or Planning Commission, environmental ordinances for consideration by the Common Council; reviewing environmental impact statements, on referral from the Common Council or Planning Commission; reviewing site plans and special permits for land use projects, on referral from the Common Council or Planning Commission; advising the Common Council and Planning Commission on policy matters related to the protection of natural resources and the overall quality of the environment in Peekskill; and advising the City Manager at his or her request on administrative matters related to the protection of natural resources and the environment in the City.
- G. To be a source of public information in the City and to foster increased understanding of conservation and environmental issues.
- H. To organize volunteers for conservation projects as needed.
- I. To identify funding opportunities for conservation projects.
- J. To keep accurate records of its meetings and actions, and it shall file an annual report with the Common Council on or before the 31st day of December of each and every year. Once approved, the Common Council shall forward a copy of this report to the State Commissioner of Environmental Conservation.
- K. To carry out any other duties, tasks, or responsibilities, consistent with the objectives of Article 12-F of the General Municipal Law, assigned to it by resolution of the Common Council.