

Engagement Report

The Peekskill Plan: Office Hours #1

This report provides a summary of activities conducted and input received on 07/07/2026. This information is intended to help inform the planning process, but does not necessarily reflect the visions and goals that will ultimately make up the framework of the comprehensive plan. Public input will continue to be gathered and analyzed throughout the planning process.



Members of the community discussing their aspirations and concerns for Peekskill with members of the consultant team.

Summary of Public Input on July 7, 2026

City of Peekskill Department of Planning & Development



	Project	The Peekskill Plan
	Event	Office Hours #1
	Date	Jul 7, 2026
	Time	1:00 - 3:00 PM
	Location	Esther Street Plaza
	Facilitation	<u>Interboro Partners</u> • Dan D'Oca • Justin Paul Ware • Claire Pfister <u>Land Use Law Center</u> • Tiffany Zezula
	Attendance	24 attendees (estimated)
	Photos	Google Drive

Overview

Office Hours sessions are intended to offer a more informal, unstructured format for people to talk with the planning team, learn about the planning process, and offer their thoughts and feedback. Office Hours will be held several times in various locations throughout the planning process.

The first Office Hours session for The Peekskill Plan was held on Tuesday, July 7th at the Esther Street Plaza from 1:00 - 3:00 PM. The event was advertised through the digital mailing list, social media pages, and printed flyers distributed around Downtown.

Around 24 people attended the first Office Hours event, and were invited to speak with four members of the planning team: three representatives from Interboro Partners, and one representative from the Land Use Law Center. The group was broken up into several tables to

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allow for smaller conversations. Attendees were given a brief overview of The Peekskill Plan initiative, and then invited to share their thoughts and ask questions.

A wide range of topics were discussed including challenges that the city faces, opportunities for the city's future, and practical details about the comprehensive planning process and community engagement.

Office Hours Session #1 Summary

Some of the key topics discussed included:

- Vacancy and loss of businesses in the Downtown area
- Concern about housing access and affordability for the existing community
- Safety and accessibility concerns for pedestrians
- Concern about shade and loss of tree canopy
- The riverfront as an important resource that should be preserved, but also leveraged as an asset
- The need to support Peekskill's senior population, particularly accessibility needs
- Concerns about support and services for Peekskill's unhoused community
- The desire to see more businesses and activation of Downtown spaces to draw in visitors
- Interest in attracting or strengthening certain industries, with an emphasis on emerging industries such as biotech, quantum tech, media, and digital arts
- Concern about Peekskill trying to emulate development in other towns like Beacon, and the threat of displacement caused by new development
- Desire to strengthen and build off of Peekskill's existing local circular economy through things like the Regeneration Farm, Retake Remake, etc.
- Pride in Peekskill's diversity and multicultural identity and a desire to preserve these characteristics
- Desire to capture cycling and outdoor recreation tourism, and make Peekskill a destination for cyclists, while improving cycling facilities/infrastructure for residents
- Concern about pollution and environmental quality related to the garbage incinerator (Wheelabrator) and Indian Point
- The desire for assets such as the Paramount Theater to be better activated for the Peekskill community as well as visitors

Key points related to the planning process included:

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- The need to reach and include more diverse perspectives in the planning process
 - Desire for more transparency and direct community involvement in decision-making processes
 - Concern about planning in Peekskill being too fragmented, and a desire to think more holistically about the city's future
 - Desire for a more creative and imaginative vision for the city that is responsive to Peekskill's diverse population and inclusive of the city's marginalized communities