

HENDERSON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Commission Meeting of 10/28/25

*A bad player skates to where the puck was. A good player skates
to where the puck is. A great player skates to where the puck will be.*
--Wayne Gretsky

Minutes

Attendees

Martin Clement
Dana Keefer
Colman McGann via Zoom
Dave Poulin
Torre Parker-Lane

Guests

John Bateman, potential new member
Jay Grasso, President of grant writing company

Meeting called to order at 7:01pm

1. Interview Grant Writing Firm. Salient points of the discussion:

- a. Introduction to the company by Jay.
- b. Dave: Town Board has 2 grant proposals already underway:
 - i. LWRP submitted; awaiting response
 - ii. NY Forward due to go in next week. [Jay: if not granted in Round 4, they can support in Round 5.]
- c. Torre: the Towns Comprehensive Plan being updated and (hopefully) ready for vote by the Town Board by year-end.
- d. Optional fee structures:
 - i. \$2400/month for 12 months
 - ii. \$18,000 for 4 grant proposals
 - iii. \$155 hourly rate

Some grants include money for admin fee; if not, they would charge us. Money to pay for grant writing will come from the 2026 budget. Deadlines for the grants mostly in May/June. If contract signed, they will start ahead of time; will come to meet with various parties in the town—no charge—and will start work on the projects.

- e. Dave mentioned some projects we are considering:
 - i. Henderson Fish & Game Club bridge unsafe. Jay: candidate for Bridge New York.

- ii. Local creek dam has not been maintained. Jay: candidate for LGE grant.
 - iii. Add storm drains in the hamlet. Jay: WQIP planning grant.
 - iv. Potential environmental abatement of former auto repair business. Jay: candidate for an EPA grant.
- f. Jay said we should pursue large grants (2 million+) through Congress via Sen Schumer's office, and smaller ones through State Senate offices.
- g. Torre inquired whether the firm goes after private foundation grants. Jay: yes. Those grants tend to be in the \$5K-\$20K range.
- h. Dave indicated we will take the grant writing proposal to the Board at the November or December meeting, and would hope to start the project of grant writing first thing in January.
- i. After Jay left the meeting, members of the Commission agreed that Jay was very knowledgeable and seems to know where the money is and how to get at it. Dana suggested that some of the smaller items on the wish list that might qualify for private foundation grants be transferred to the Henderson Community Improvement Group, which handles just such projects. As a 501c3 this group is eligible for such grants. Marty asked if we might consider a grant to bury power lines.
2. **Establish November/December Meeting Date.** As the regularly scheduled fourth Tuesday of each month clashes with both Thanksgiving and Christmas, a single November/December meeting date of December 4 was proposed and accepted by the group. Dates through the end of 2026 are included at the end of these minutes.
3. **Review Draft Action Plan Format.** Torre is hoping to have the committee's draft of an updated Comprehensive Land Use Plan by year-end, from which we can finish the action plan and then select and prioritize the projects on which the Commission will focus.
4. **Additional Members.** The Commission is slated to have 9 members. Currently there are 5, 1 is in process of interview and appointment by the Town Board, 3 more are currently being vetted, and another potential member is being reviewed to ascertain if there is interest.
5. **Chair and Vice Chair Discussion.** Tabled until we have more members.

6. Next Meeting's Agenda:

- a. New members
- b. Discussion of grant writer proposal
- c. Develop list of potential projects
- d. Review new Comprehensive Plan (if available)

Adjourned at 8:11pm

Meeting Schedule (4th Tuesday's of the month)

December 4, 2025

2026

January 27

February 24

March 24

April 28

May 26

June 23

July 28

August 25

September 22

October 27

December 10