

MINUTES OF THE AUG. 14, 2018, MEETING OF
THE PUTNAM VALLEY COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

In Attendance: Wendy Whetsel, Billy Crowder, Julie Ruben, Mike Usai and Glenn Sapir

The meeting began at 5:10 at the Putnam Valley Library. Wendy had prepared an agenda, which we were dedicated to adhering to and completing.

We discussed the issue of a homeowner complaining about a tree on his neighbor's property that he felt threatened his property. It has been determined that this is a civil issue. The complainant can cut down branches hanging over his property, but he cannot force his neighbor to cut down the tree. It is recommended that the complainant send a certified, registered receipt-requested letter to the neighbor documenting his concerns so that he might have future legal recourse in case the complainant's concerns are eventually borne out.

We moved on to a discussion of our commission's responsibilities to the Town Planning Board. It was pointed out that if we wait until plans for a building or buildings are passed on to us for site and plan inspection, it might be too late in the approval process for our recommendations to be readily implemented. As we recognized that it is easier to make changes earlier in the process, we will request to the Town Planner/Wetlands Inspector that the CCE be contacted and invited to accompany him on site inspections. Furthermore, it was recommended that the CCE set up an appointment on an upcoming Wednesday when the Town Planner/Wetlands Inspector, Bruce Barber, is in his PV office. That way no additional expense will be incurred for Barber's time. Glenn and Julie volunteered to attend, and any other member of the CCE is encouraged to also attend the meeting. Glenn volunteered to call Michelle Babnick, clerical assistant to the Planning Board, at 845-526-3740 to set up this meeting, or Bruce at 914-299-5293. We wish to discuss the above recommendation, as well as learn of code changes Barber would like to see made in conjunction with our new NRI maps, along with any other relevant points. (As a follow-up note, I called Michelle on 8/15 and left a voice mail. With no immediate [two hours] I called Bruce. He was in a meeting and said he would call me back. He was amenable to a meeting, but said that I should wait for Michelle's return call and schedule through her.) Wendy also mentioned that Michelle recommended that our site-inspection efforts be best directed toward commercial and subdivision proposals more than individual houses. Two immediate projects worthy of our attention, she said, are the Farantino subdivision on Wicopee Rd. and the Lawsonville (Barger St.) proposals.

We next discussed possible educational efforts, namely on water and invasive plants, particularly vines. We decided to table serious discussion until we have resolved the NRI, but Mike said that Adam Bosch, Public Affairs Director for the NYC DEP, is qualified and willing to speak on the topic. His schedule requires that he do it during the day and we will revisit the timing of this roundtable presentation for some time in October.

There was no new business discussed.

We decided not to schedule the next meeting at this point. We will concentrate on completing the work for the NRI and then resuming our activities with the CCE.

We adjourned at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn Sapir