

## Minutes of the April 16, 2019, Meeting of the Putnam Valley Commission for the Conservation of the Environment

In Attendance: Mike Usai, chair, Wendy Whetsel, liaison to the Town Board, Eileen Reilly, Julie Ruben, Pat Grove, Friedel Muller-Landau and Glenn Sapir

The meeting was called to order in the Putnam Valley Library at 5:07 p.m.

Minutes of the previous meeting, it was noted, had been accepted by email and posted on the town website.

Discussion led off with a proposed town cleanup. Julie Ruben reported that she had been in touch with Lauri Taylor regarding providing trash bags, and Taylor had seemed optimistic and said she would get back to her (which she hadn't done by the time of the meeting). It was reported that the Girl Scouts were conducting a cleanup on May 4. CCE had wished to do it during the week of Earth Day (April 22). Several attempts to recruit assistance had been made. Eileen Reilly reported that she had spoken to County Legislator Bill Gouldman and Town Councilperson Jackie Annabi. Eileen said she will call Gouldman again. However, Eileen learned that Councilperson Louie Luongo is the person to contact regarding supporting the CCE town cleanup. Wendy Whetsel said she would talk to Luongo about what support the town can provide. (Note: Since the meeting for which these minutes were recorded, Julie Ruben received confirmation that Lauri Taylor could provide garbage bags. Furthermore, Pat Grove and Wendy Whetsel confirmed that County Legislator Bill Gouldman will be coordinating town cleanups on Saturdays, May 4 and 11. He is encouraging individuals and teams to contact him at [William.Gouldman@putnamcountyny.gov](mailto:William.Gouldman@putnamcountyny.gov) to register and arrange for receipt of "proper tools to do the job."

Wendy Whetsel dispensed information on Generation Zapped, a film exposing the harmful effects of electro-magnetic emissions. She wished to show the movie to all, but there wasn't time to show the 1 hour 15 minute video, and CCE members were encouraged to view it on their own. Wendy reported that she shared the documentary with the P.V. school superintendent. Wendy reported that this video will be shown at the Mahopac Public Library on May 30. Wendy asked CCE members to educate themselves on this issue and then, in turn, educated friends and family. Wendy was asked to provide Eco-Tip information on this topic for posting on the P.V. website. She also said she will see if she can get the video presented by one of the grassroots organizers at the P.V. Library. Chair Mike Usai asked that we try to watch this on our own—Mike has a DVD and I believe the video can be viewed online-- and discuss it at our next meeting to see if this is a subject with which the CCE should get involved.

Julie Ruben and Pat Grove reported that they had attended a presentation sponsored by the Hudson Highlands Land Trust at which a session on Citizen Science was given. It told how lay people could contribute information to experts. In that regard, the HHLT is holding a Bio Blitz on the morning of Mother's Day (May 12) from 9 to 11 a.m., at which event participants will try to identify any life observed on the Granite Mountain Preserve. Apps to help record sightings that were suggested included iNaturalist, eBird and Merlin. Julie and Pat were going to ask Nicole Wooten of HHLT whether she would like our CCE to co-sponsor the event. Ptd also suggested we attempt to get Brent Boscarino, Invasive Species Citizen Science Program Coordinator for the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, to speak to the public. Julie thought the Three Arrows meeting hall could be made available for such a presentation.

At next meeting, Tom Patterson, chair of the Planning Board, will be in attendance, and one of the points to cover will be the best way to make available all proposals submitted to the Planning Board.

Mike will send to all CCE members and to Tom Patterson the questions collected after Tom previously spoke to the CCE.

Wendy was asked to set up a meeting with Town Planner Bruce Barber during the morning or afternoon of Wednesday, May 15.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, at 5 p.m. at the P.V. Public Library

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Eileen Reilly will call Bill Gouldman and Julie Ruben will contact Lauri Taylor to learn what support they can provide to a town cleanup day.**

**Wendy Whetsel will call Councilperson Louie Luongo to see what support the town can provide to such a cleanup day.**

**CCE members have been encouraged to watch Project Zapped by the next meeting on May 7.**

**CCE members should promote the Bio Blitz at Granite Mountain Preserve on Sunday, May 12, from 9 to 11 a.m. Pat and/or Julie should contact Nicole Wooten of HHLT to see if she would be interested in CCE co-sponsoring the day.**

**Mike Usai will send Tom Patterson and all CCE members the follow-up questions submitted after our last meeting with Tom.**

**Wendy will attempt to set up a meeting with Bruce Barber for Wed., May 15, in the morning or afternoon.**

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Sapir, Secretary  
CCE