

## Minutes of the Feb. 26, 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, Mia Azcue, Julie Ruben, Pat Grove, Friedel Muller-Landau and Glenn Sapir and nonmembers Lynne Bernstein and Ina Cholst

Chairman Mike Usai called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. at the Putnam Valley Library.

Secretary Glenn Sapir took the roll.

Reading of the minutes of the Jan. 8, 2019, meeting, approved earlier, was dispensed with.

Mike said he is awaiting word from Tom Patterson to address questions posed by the CCE. He also said he would invite Bruce Barber to our next meeting.

Some discussion took place about the Trees for Tribes program. Pat Grove mentioned DEC's similar Buffer in a Bag tree distribution program, and Glenn Sapir said the Soil and Water Conservation Service also distributes trees.

The group addressed the Natural Resources Inventory, scheduled for a public hearing at Town Hall on Wednesday, March 13, at 6 p.m. With collaboration between Julie Ruben and Pat, with input from Nate Nardi-Cyrus and Karen Doyle of the NRI work group, Julie forwarded wording for a proposed law to accompany the acceptance of the NRI after the public hearing. Wendy Whetsel reported that it would be wise to simply present the NRI, without a proposed law, at the hearing. Her recommendation was accepted. Pat suggested that representatives of the NRI work group, sometime after the public hearing, meet with Supervisor Sam Oliverio and Town Counsel Bill Florence to discuss how to best implement the NRI. Glenn was encouraged to work with Town Webmaster Glen Baisley to best promote the NRI before the public hearing. It was suggested he have the link to the public access Comcast TV show that featured Glenn being interviewed regarding the NRI be placed on the Putnam Valley website. The CCE members encouraged each other to invite the public to attend the hearing and to submit letters of support for the project and to otherwise post links to the NRI on all potentially receptive websites and encourage attendance at the public hearing.

Regarding the NRI, Pat distributed maps of the town and identified vernal pools to the committee members, and asked them to volunteer to do hands-on exploration to confirm their existence and qualification as vernal pools. Members identified those they would explore, and Pat promised to provide coordinates, maps and criterion that define a vernal pool. Investigation is to take place between March and June.

Conversation moved to our newly introduced series of Eco-Tips, which CCE members are contributing for posting on the PV website. Mia Azcue began this series with helpful, environmentally sound means of melting snow and ice. Mia is working on eco tips regarding recycling electronics and also repair cafes. Glenn volunteered to provide several eco tips on sportsmen and women and their contribution to conservation, and how Putnam Valley citizens can help support those conservation actions. Wendy said she would talk to our town communications pros about getting the eco tips more notice, perhaps getting them on the main scroll of the home page of the town website.

Mike reminded CCE members that he would appreciate comments on the proposed Environmental Review Checklist he distributed at the last meeting. He said he would email a copy to each CCE member.

Pat pointed out that there is on the PV website an Environmental Assessment Form, which developers/homeowners must fill out. It was felt we should receive a copy of those forms that have been filed with the town.

Mike discussed the CCE's role in reviewing proposed projects in the town, which is a prescribed duty of the CCE. It was decided that CCE would attempt to go to a two-meetings-a-month schedule, with the meeting on the first Tuesday of the month held to discuss proposed plans for projects and the meeting on the third Tuesday of the month for education efforts and all other CCE matters.

Ina Cholst, a town citizen but not a CCE member, said she had been approached to see if Putnam Valley would adopt the Climate Smart Communities Pledge, of which she handed out copies. Taking such a pledge would open up opportunities for Putnam Valley to receive substantial grants. Ina offered to serve as the town's point person if the Town Board adopts the CSC's model resolution. The responsible overseeing organization for CSC would provide a speaker to address the town board.

The next two CCE meetings were scheduled: The Planning Meeting would be on Tuesday, March 5; the education/all other matters meeting would be on Tuesday, March 19. Both will be at the Putnam Valley Library at 5 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Glenn Sapir, Secretary