

PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD
5:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 05, 2019
PRE-WORK SESSION MEETING

AGENDA

1. Resolved that the Putnam Valley Town Board does hereby approve and endorse the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Inc. in their application for a grant under Title 9 of the Environmental Protection Act of 1993 for a park project known as Canopus Creek Preserve within the Town of Putnam Valley.
2. Authorize the Supervisor to sign a letter of support for the Hudson Highlands Land Trust's CFA Application #90325, entitled Canopus Creek Reserve for the acquisition of the Cimarron Ranch Property.
3. Continued discussion on the de-icer ordinance.
4. Continued discussion on revisions to our noise ordinance
5. Continued discussion on Airbnb's.

PUTNAM VALLEY TOWN BOARD
5:00 PM
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 05, 2019
PRE-WORK SESSION MEETING

Present: Supervisor Oliverio
Councilwoman Whetsel
Councilwoman Annabi
Councilman Mackay
Councilman Luongo

Also Present: Sherry Howard, Deputy Town Clerk
William Florence, Town Attorney

SUPERVISORS OPENING COMMENTS

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

Supervisor Oliverio welcomed everyone to the Special Town Board pre-work session meeting. He noted that the pre-work session meetings are now beginning at 5:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence for our armed forces.

**REOLVED THAT THE TOWN BOARD ENDORSES THE HUDSON HIGHLANDS
LAND TRUST FOR A PARK PROJECT KNOWN AS CANOPUS CREEK PRESERVE
WITHIN THE TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY**

Presented by Councilperson Luongo

Supervisor Oliverio said that this comes under a court order from Judge Victor Grossman. This is the old Cimarron Ranch area. Councilperson Mackay asked who will be paying for the clean-up of that area. Why do we have to pay to clean-up an area that someone else polluted? Supervisor Oliverio said the money that we receive from Hudson Highlands will enable us to do the clean-up. Councilperson Annabi said the money is coming from the grant to clean it up. If it wasn't for this grant the taxpayers will

have had to clean up the pollution left there; and the Town should not be in the property buying business anyway.

RESOLUTION #R19-200

WHEREAS, the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, Inc. is applying to the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Prehistoric Preservation (OPRHP) for a grant under Title 9 of the Environmental Protection Act of 1993 for a park project to be located off Cimarron Road and Sprout Brook Road in Putnam Valley, a site located within the territorial jurisdiction of this Town Board; and

WHEREAS, as a requirement under the rules of this program, said not-for-profit corporation must obtain the “approval/endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located”;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by this august body that the Town Board of Putnam Valley hereby does approve and endorse the application of Hudson Highlands Land Trust for a grant under Title 9 of the Environmental Protection Act of 1993 for a park project known as Canopus Creek Preserve and located within this community

Seconded by Councilperson Annabi.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilperson Luongo	AYE
Councilperson Mackay	AYE
Councilperson Annabi	AYE
Councilperson Whetsel	AYE
Supervisor Oliverio	AYE

By a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NAYS the Resolution passes unanimously

AUTHORIZE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE HUDSON HIGHLAND LAND TRUST’S CFA APPLICATION #90325, ENTITLED CANOPUS CREEK PRESERVE FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE CIMARRON RANCH PROPERTY.

Presented by Councilperson Annabi

RESOLUTION #R19-201

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorize the Supervisor to sign a letter of support for the Hudson Highland Land Trust’s CFA Application #90325, entitled Canopus Creek Preserve for the acquisition of the Cimarron Ranch Property.

NYS OPRHP Regional Grants Administrator (Mid-Hudson Region)
Ms. Erin Drost
Taconic Regional Office
9 Old Post Road
Staatsburg, New York 12580

June 5, 2019

Dear Ms. Drost:

On behalf of the Town of Putnam Valley, I am pleased to submit this Letter of Support for the Hudson Highland Land Trust's (HHLT) CFA Application # 90325, entitled *Canopus Creek Preserve*, and for the acquisition of the Cimarron Ranch property.

The Town of Putnam Valley is a small, mainly rural community, in the heart of the Hudson Highlands. The natural landscape has contributed to an enviable quality of life for residents and we work to ensure it stays that way.

One of our most treasured natural areas is the property known as Cimarron Ranch, which includes more than 350 acres of forested land towards the southern end of town. It is listed in our Comprehensive Plan as one of 8 key properties of conservation interest. For many years we had been in a lawsuit with the landowner, who owns an adjacent 25-acre parcel, and had been allowing dumping of construction and demolition debris there. A receiver was appointed to oversee the clean-up of this property, and in 2018 the Supreme Court of Putnam County ruled that the 350-acre property be sold by the receiver to HHLT for use as a community park, and the proceeds used to fund the clean-up on the adjacent property.

We are delighted HHLT was able to step into this role and take on this transaction. Our residents want to see this 350-acre property converted to parkland, returning it to public and conservation use.

The Town of Putnam Valley fully supports HHLT's proposal to purchase and conserve the Cimarron Ranch property of woodlands, streams and hiking trails in Putnam Valley, excluding the contaminated parcel. This project conserves priority open lands, protects drinking water and provides much needed recreation opportunities in that area of town.

As noted above, conserving this property as parkland brings to fruition one of the objectives identified in our Comprehensive Plan. This plan also promoted the goal of preserving biodiversity as identified in the Croton-to-Highlands Biodiversity Plan, a plan in which the Cimarron Ranch area was included as one of the key areas for biodiversity conservation.

I urge your support for HHLT's CFA Application 90325, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sam Oliverio
Supervisor

Seconded by Councilperson Mackay, unanimously carried

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

RESOLUTION # R19-202

RESOLVED that the Town Board **ADD** to the agenda:

#6 – Approve letter of collaboration with Hudson Land Trust demonstrating Putnam Valley's commitment to serve as a partner for the project proposed in the East Highland Green Corridors Plan.

#7 – Waive permit fee for the Putnam Valley Ambulance Corps.

Seconded by Councilperson Mackay, unanimously carried

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON THE DE-ICER ORDINANCE

Presented by Councilperson Annabi

Councilperson Annabi said this is a continued discussion on de-icers or bubblers. These are used on Lake Oscawana to keep docks and boat sheds clear from ice in the winter months so there is no damage. There was an incident last year where someone fell into the ice and it is possible that this occurred because a de-icer caused the ice to split across the lake. LOMAC and the residents of Lake Oscawana asked the Town Board to put through de-icer regulations. What has been done towards this is good but they would like to have some further discussions on how far this should extend etc. There is further research that needs to be done; but it needs to be passed before the coming winter. Councilperson Annabi added that we don't want to violate anybody's rights, but we have to keep everyone safe. Supervisor Oliverio agreed and said we will not table this, but it will be discussed at another meeting. Attorney Florence said you are trying to regulate moving water in an isolated lake around property that you are extending into the lake – so you are safe in regulating this. Councilperson Whetsel said she heard that in Upstate New York they physically remove their docks from the water in the winter to protect them. Attorney Florence said there is a way to do that – they are floating docks and they attach them to the bottom by an anchor or a pole. What that does is preserve that dock for a much longer life. Councilperson Whetsel said would it behoove us to do that in the future – moving forward we could require that any new docks be the floating kind that must be removed. Councilperson Annabi said that was part of the discussion – some people already have them but some people's docks are attached to a permanent boat house. There is also a permit process each time they are removed and then replaced – so this is a burden for people to do. Councilperson Annabi said she will bring this up at the next LOMAC meeting. Councilperson Luongo said one (1) of the things that happens only in Lake Oscawana is that it does not get lowered. This puts the ice up against the docks all the time.

Councilperson Mackay asked how they are intending to light up the signs that warn of a de-icer? Councilperson Annabi said they will use outlets and extension cords with the lights will being aimed down. They will also only be lit for a certain amount of hours. Councilperson Mackay said we have no regulations as to times that people can use the lake and he thinks there will be complaints about the amount of light the signs give off at night to mark the de-icers. Supervisor Oliverio said this issue is more complicated than people think.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION ON OUR NOISE ORDINANCE

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

Supervisor Oliverio said having reviewed this issue myself – but opening this up to everybody here- I am content with the noise ordinance the way it is. People need to follow it. We will leave it as is. Councilperson Luongo said if you change one (1) thing in it you have to change other things then as well. We can always revisit it. Councilperson Whetsel said if you are having an issue – just talk to your neighbors. Councilperson Annabi said we do have to move with the times. People are coming home later and living in the City during the week and it is something that we should review at a later date. Councilperson Mackay said 98% of the time having a conversation with your neighbor works really well. We cannot regulate every single thing. Attorney Florence said this might be the mechanism for saying how this violates the criminal code so the Sheriff's Department could handle any of these complaints. If we figure out a way to say that if you are continually disturbing your neighbors this could fall under harassment or a nuisance charge. We can train our people about how we want this to be handled. This will give people a resource to handle any continual issue with noise.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF AIRBNB

Presented by Supervisor Oliverio

Supervisor Oliverio said we must come up with something because right now there is no regulation on our books so we have no recourse. We have had numerous complaints about incidences occurring with Airbnb's from residents. This is a very controversial topic. There are so many different ways to go on this. Councilperson Annabi had a great idea which we will discuss at the Work Session next week.

APPROVE LETTER OF COLLABORATION WITH HUDSON HIGHLANDS LAND TRUST FOR THE PROJECT PROPOSED IN THE EAST HIGHLAND GREEN CORRIDORS PLAN

Presented by Councilperson Whetsel

RESOLUTION #R19-203

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorize the Supervisor to sign a letter of support for the Hudson Highland Land Trust demonstrating Putnam Valley's commitment to serve as partner for the project proposed in the East Highland Green Corridors Plan.

June 2019

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233

RE: Hudson River Estuary Grants for Local Stewardship Planning (Round 28)
Grant Application #DEC01-HRER28-2019

Dear NYSDEC colleagues,

I write this **Letter of Collaboration** to demonstrate the Town of Putnam Valley's commitment to serve as a partner for the project proposed in this Hudson River Estuary Grant Application. The project is the **East Highlands Green Corridors Plan**, with a selected pilot study area spanning Putnam Valley and Philipstown to produce a connectivity plan. In this "Town of Lakes" we recognize that connectivity between our existing conserved areas is essential to maintaining the multitude of ecosystem services (such as clean water and recreational opportunities) we enjoy.

In 2018 the Town of Putnam Valley completed a comprehensive Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), with assistance from the Hudson River Estuary Program and the Hudson Highlands Land Trust (HHLT). This NRI highlights the vast array of natural resources to be protected in Putnam Valley to ensure we maintain our safe drinking water and resilient ecosystems. As changing climate and other stressors impact these natural resources we must ensure there are systems in place to sustain them. Sustaining resilient ecosystems requires a network of open lands, corridors and habitats that allows plants and animals to move as their environment changes. By partnering with HHLT and the neighboring town of Philipstown on the Green Corridors Plan, we will be able to make significant progress on our goals to build resilience of our natural resources to a changing climate. This letter also confirms that **HHLT shall be the lead partner in this project**, and is submitting the aforementioned grant application as the Lead Applicant.

The outcome of this project achieves one of the goals in our current Comprehensive Plan to *"create a network of conserved open lands that stretches throughout the community, protecting biodiversity and creating opportunities to link residential neighborhoods, lake communities, commercial corners and recreation areas to one another."*

We hope you agree that this is an important project that will benefit our region and the entire Hudson River Estuary. Thank you for considering our application.

Sincerely,

Sam Oliverio
Town Supervisor

Supervisor Oliverio said what the Hudson Highlands Land Trust is trying to do is link all their properties together with Phillipstown and go right over the mountain (they have a great deal of property); but they need grant money to do that. They are asking us for support to say this is a great idea. They are not asking for money. This would be a continuous trail way from Putnam Valley to Phillipstown – it would go through Fahnestock to 301 – it's a great idea. Councilperson Annabi said this is different project from the earlier letter of support we discussed at this meeting. Attorney Florence added - are we going to imply that some of the zoning should be changed to a conservation zone so we can enforce and protect the trail ways.

Seconded by Councilperson Mackay, unanimously carried

WAIVE PERMIT FEE FOR THE PUTNAM VALLEY AMBULANCE CORPS

Presented by Councilperson Mackay

RESOLUTION #R19-204

RESOLVED that the Town Board authorize the Supervisor to waive the \$75.00 tree permit fee for the Putnam Valley Ambulance Corp.

Seconded by Councilperson Luongo, unanimously carried

DISCUSSION ON TRAFFIC SAFETY

Presented by Councilperson Annabi

Councilperson Annabi said this discussion is about coming down from Kramers Pond Road onto Oscawana Lake Road – we had asked County Legislator Gouldman to put up a sign coming from the Elementary School towards Kramers Pond Road which they did. Councilperson Annabi asked Supervisor Oliverio to please write a letter to County Legislator Gouldman and our County Legislators asking to please put a sign underneath that sign which says something like “hidden roadway”. You cannot see a car coming even if you are looking both ways. Councilperson Luongo said the biggest problem over there is when they lowered the road a few years ago they hit ledge at the rise of the road which would have required blasting – so they stopped the project. The only option that's left is to take Kramers Pond back to the first telephone pole and lift that whole intersection. Councilperson Annabi said a sign would be much easier. Councilperson Luongo said but it is just a sign. Councilperson Mackay said what about a traffic light or a flashing light? Councilperson Annabi said we cannot have a traffic light there; but a flashing light is a possibility – to make people more aware.

Councilperson Annabi said the County DOT had a meeting about the Pudding Street Bridge at Bryant Pond Road for Roaring Brook residents to give them information about when the project will start and how it will affect them. Please look on their website for the video of the meeting it was very informative. Councilperson Mackay said the School District is on board with the current DOT timeline. He added that some people were upset with the disruption of their routine. He said we will all be inconvenienced at one time or another due to this - but it is worth it.

Councilperson Luongo said any letter we write for Kramers Pond Road or even for Bryant Pond Road should be copied and sent to the Putnam County Traffic Safety Board too – let's get them involved as well.

Supervisor Oliverio said this is the end of our meeting tonight – we do not need an Executive Session.

Councilperson Luongo said anybody swimming in Lake Oscawana especially in the middle please wear some kind of reflective material so that boaters can see you. Not everybody can see you even if you can see them. He added that at the Fire Department Board Meeting the Chief's decided to start a recruitment drive. The first one (1) is this Saturday and is being called, "Coffee with our Firefighters" at 9:00 AM and we will do it several times during the year.

Councilwoman Annabi said it is supposed to be a nice weekend so please be careful while you are driving there will be people on the roadway picking up trash.

Supervisor Oliverio reminded the community that the first two Board Meetings of the month are now being held at 5:00 PM and the third one is at 6:00 PM.

Councilperson Mackay moved to go adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Supervisor Oliverio, unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Howard
Town Clerk
06/10/2019