

Minutes of the Aug. 13, 2019, Meeting of the Putnam Valley Commission for the Conservation of the Environment

In Attendance: CCE members Mike Usai, chair, Mia Azcue, Pat Grove, Friedel Muller-Landau, Eileen Reilly and Glenn Sapir; Wendy Whetsel, liaison to the Town Board;

Absent: CCE member Julie Ruben

The meeting was called to order at Town Hall at 5:37 p.m by Chair Mike Usai.

Glenn Sapir presented an Eco-tip on “Safer, Eco-Friendlier Herbicide Alternatives,” revised from the version he presented at the previous CCE meeting. It was accepted, with a suggested edit in a couple of places where uses on pre-emergent vegetation is concerned. Glenn mentioned that he had sent a copy to Town Planner and Wetlands Inspector Bruce Barber for his comments and was awaiting Bruce’s response. As an aside, Glenn mentioned that he had received a text from a town resident concerned about a breached dam that had drained two ponds. Mike and Pat Grove said they had received a similar message. Glenn reported he had forwarded the text to Bruce Barber, and Mike said he had been in touch with Bruce on this issue, and that Bruce was investigating the matter.

Next, Glenn updated the commission on the progress of the proposed video on removing Oriental Bittersweet, an undesirable invasive species. He explained that we had not received permission to incorporate an existing video because we wished to edit it within our own video. He had prepared a revised script that denounced the use of Roundup, which is featured in the existing video he had hoped to use. The CCE members rejected the use of the existing video because of its inclusion of Roundup, and Glenn said he would attempt to write a new script within three days that would be for a totally PV-produced video, which would not feature Roundup. Because Glenn would then be going away for two weeks, it would be the responsibility of Wendy Whetsel and others to identify locations for the video shooting.

Wendy suggested we help form a voluntary task force to remove invasives. Friedel Muller-Landau said such a task force exists at Roaring Brook Lake.

The next item on the agenda was the CCE’s budget request for the 2020 town budget. Taking into account Town Day activities and educational outreach, it was decided to request \$500, the amount apparently allotted in this year’s budget, and Wendy and Mike will follow up on making the formal request, which was due by Friday, Aug. 16. Wendy said she would also confirm that the existing line of “Environmental Control” in the budget refers to the CCE.

Discussion turned to Town Day, and our tables/booth there. Wendy reiterated that she can bring an old-fashioned changing screen to hang photos. Everyone is urged to bring tables. It was decided not to request electricity or use a computer. Also, Wendy will again send out the flyer on the photo contest, this time as an attachment, to all CCE members, who will be responsible for printing out copies. We volunteered to post those flyers wherever they might be seen by town residents. Specific assignments made were: Glenn—Town Hall, Library, Post Office on Peekskill Hollow Road; Friedel—Town Park and Senior Center; Pat—Sunset Hill Deli; Mike: Lake Peekskill Deli and Lake Peekskill Community Center; Eileen Reilly—Tompkins Corners Cultural Center and Farmer’s Market. Pat suggested that we make the displayed photos into an identification game. Glenn said he would ask Karen Doyle of the Hudson Highlands Land Trust whether we can borrow her blown-up maps from the Natural Resources Inventory and the HHLT easels to display them.

Next on the agenda was an update on the Comprehensive Plan. Mike reported that he has been in contact with Bruce Barber regarding the next step in incorporating some of the NRI into a revised Master Plan. It was suggested that we start to review both the Master Plan and the NRI to suggest possible incorporation opportunities in advance of Bruce's formal request, which might be a few months away.

Wendy suggested we review our activities and the NRI as it might relate to Climate Smart.

Pat suggested that we should invite Karen Doyle of the HHLT to an upcoming meeting to discuss the concept of an Open Space Inventory, so we can learn more about what Pat called a logical next step after the development of the NRI.

The next two meetings of the CCE were set for Tuesdays, Sept. 3 and 17, at 5:30 at Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS:

GLENN—Make final revisions to Eco-tip, await Bruce Barber's suggestions and comments and then send to town webmaster for posting. Rewrite Oriental Bittersweet invasive species video script. Post Town Day flyer at assigned locations. Ask Karen Doyle for enlarged maps and HHLT easels.

MIKE—Work with Wendy on requesting \$500 for the 2010 budget. Post Town Day flyer in assigned locations. Continue working with Bruce Barber on incorporating the NRI into the revised Master Plan. Invite Karen Doyle to a future meeting to discuss Open Space Inventory.

WENDY—Scout out locations for video shooting. Work with Mike on our budget request. Investigate what the existing budget line of "Environmental Control" refers to. Send out Town Day flyer as a jpeg to all CCE members.

EILEEN—Post Town Day flyer at assigned locations.

FRIEDEL—Post Town Day flyer at assigned locations.

PAT—Post Town Day flyer at assigned location.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn Sapir, CCE Secretary

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