

## Minutes of the Nov. 19, 2019, Meeting of the Putnam Valley Commission for the Conservation of the Environment

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

Absent: CCE members Friedel Muller-Landau and Julie Ruben

Chair Mike Usai called the meeting to order at Town Hall at 5:43 p.m.

Wendy Whetsel solicited the help of Mike Usai and Glenn Sapir and anyone else who can help set up a projector and screen at the Library on Saturday, Nov. 23, in preparation for the Meet and Greet the following day. They were to meet at 2 p.m.

Mike said he would contact Julie Ruben regarding bringing food. (Julie and Eileen have subsequently reviewed their to-do lists concerning food, beverages, etc.). It was requested that we meet at the Library on Sunday between 12 and 12:30 in preparation for the scheduled 1-4 p.m. Meet and Greet.

Wendy Whetsel, CCE Liaison to the Town Board, distributed a list of subjects of importance that she had prepared and suggested we individually select the topics with which we would like to get involved. Glenn suggested we study the list and come back to the December meeting with any additional suggestions of topics and with our desired area of interest.

At the next meeting we must announce individually whether we wish to seek reappointment. The terms of Mike, Glenn, Mia Azcue and Friedel Muller-Landau all expire at the end of the year. We do have the option of not wishing to be reappointed, or to be reappointed for one- or two-year terms. Mike did announce that he would not serve as Chair of the CCE in his next term.

Pat Grove asked Mike if he had followed up on reaching out to the two students or their teacher advisor Nick Lenhard regarding the essays the two teens would need to submit as they are considered for seats on the CCE. Mike replied that he had not heard anything more. Pat offered to follow up with the students.

Glenn announced that he would prepare the brief annual report for the Town Board, and submit it to the CCE at our next meeting for its approval.

Wendy reported that the Town Board has been preoccupied with budget and other town matters. She suggested that we would be wise to wait in dealing with the board on a couple of issues.

Wendy had spoken to Bruce Barber about hanging some of the enlarged NRI maps on the wall outside his office for the convenience of town officials and commissions, and she asked Pat to make a selection of maps to recommend for such display.

Wendy reported that the town will not pave Horton Hollow Road, as advised by the CCE and DEC, because of threats to endangered species and wetlands.

Pat distributed a copy of a published letter and editor's note, appearing in the magazine, Nature Conservancy, Winter 2019, that described an herbicide (Garland 3a) and its correct use around wetlands, as approved by the EPA.

Pat attended a workshop on the Community Preservation Fund (CPF). She reported that in some towns that have achieved the legal status to hold such a fund, a real-estate transfer tax is in place. It represents a small percent of the selling price and goes to the CPF to be used for open space.

Pat reported that she had spoken to Town Supervisor Oliverio regarding Planning Board minutes. He said he would try to get the minutes on the town website.

Pat reported that she had spoken to Planning Board member Tom Carano, who told her we could participate in Planning Board work sessions. Pat is seeking to meet with him to further discuss our participation. Wendy suggested that we request documents from the Planning Board once they have been submitted.

Pat next reported that the Putnam Valley Residents Coalition has offered the CCE space on its website.

Glenn offered to do the CCE's monthly report at the Dec. 18 meeting of the Town Board (at 6 p.m.).

The next meeting of the CCE was set for Tuesday, Dec. 17, at 5:30 at Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

**MIKE—Announce plans to ask for reappointment at our next meeting. Bring added topics of interest and specific areas you'd like to work on as CCE advances its activities. Come to the Library on Sat., Nov. 23, at 2 p.m. to help set up screen, projector and PowerPoint at the library for our Meet and Greet. Attend Meet and Greet on Sunday, Nov. 24, from 1 to 4 p.m.**

**MIA— Announce plans to ask for reappointment at our next meeting. Bring added topics of interest and specific areas you'd like to work on as CCE advances its activities.**

**WENDY— Come to the Library on Sat., Nov. 23, at 2 p.m. to help set up screen, projector and PowerPoint at the library for our Meet and Greet. Attend Meet and Greet on Sunday, Nov. 24, from 1 to 4 p.m.**

**JULIE—Purchase cheese, crackers, fruit, and paper goods for the meet and greet. Attend Meet and Greet on Sunday, Nov. 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. At our next meeting bring added topics of interest and specific areas you'd like to work on as CCE advances its activities.**

**EILEEN-- Announce plans to ask for reappointment at our next meeting. Bring added topics of interest and specific areas you'd like to work on as CCE advances its activities. Purchase wine, sparkling water and paper cups for the library Meet and Greet. PAT—Present a binder of the NRI to the library.**

**PAT-- Bring added topics of interest and specific areas you'd like to work on as CCE advances its activities. Seek out an opportunity to meet with Tom Carano to further discuss how the CCE can participate in Planning Board work sessions. Select maps to be given for display at Town Hall. Follow up on the status of interest of two students who were to be considered for seats on the CCE.**

**GLENN— Announce plans to ask for reappointment at our next meeting. Bring added topics of interest and specific areas you'd like to work on as CCE advances its activities. Come to the Library on Sat., Nov. 23, at 2 p.m. to help set up screen, projector and PowerPoint at the library for our Meet and Greet. Attend Meet and Greet on Sunday, Nov. 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. Attend Dec. 18 Town Board meeting to give CCE report.**

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Sapir, CCE Secretary