

Minutes of the April 21, 2020 Meeting of the Putnam Valley Commission for the Conservation of the Environment

Note: The meeting was conducted via *Zoom* videoconferencing.

Present:

CCE Members: Eileen Reilly (chair), Mia Azcue, Pat Grove, Ben Lowder (student member), Julie Ruben, Glenn Sapir, Mike Usai
CCE Liaison from the Town Board: Wendy Whetsel
Guest: Ralph Smith

Chair Eileen Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm.

I. Guest Speaker

Town Board member Ralph Smith reported that the Town Board had approved the resolution at its March 2020 meeting, and Putnam Valley is now a Climate Smart Community. Ralph will be discussing the formation of a Climate Smart Task force with Supervisor Sam Oliverio. Ben Lowder noted that the Environmental Club of Putnam Valley High School would like to be involved. Members of the CCE stated that they were in full support of the Climate Smart Initiative.

II. Putnam Valley Town Board Update

Wendy Whetsel reported that the Town Board would be discussing guidelines for individual home and property owners in Putnam Valley who wanted to site major renewable energy structures on their land. Wendy stated she would circulate ideas for such guidelines and would solicit member input.

III. Areas of Importance: Committee Chair Updates

Open Space Inventory: Julie Ruben reported that progress on the Open Space Inventory has been slowed by New York State's focus on managing the Covid-19 pandemic, and by the inherent difficulties in engaging in non-essential projects last month. The chair of the Kent CCE has contacted Julie requesting advice as they work on their NRI.

Master Plan: Progress on the Master Plan has been slowed during the current crisis. It was noted that Building Code and Zoning regulations should be reviewed and updated to take renewable energy into account. Eileen said she has a call in to Bruce Barber, Town Planner, and will find out if he has made any progress.

Educational: CCE members have continued posting items of interest to the community on our Facebook page.

PV Project Reviews: Because of the pandemic, New York State has asked that all non-essential construction projects be put on hold, so it is presumed there are no plans to review at this time.

IV. PV CCE Proposed Rules of Order

Several CCE members have already edited a draft of the proposed Rules of Order. Action on this document will await review by the remainder of the Commission.

V. NYS Association of Conservation Commissions (NYSACC)

Membership Status

Wendy reported that the CCE membership application and dues check have been prepared and will be mailed in early May.

VI. NYSDEC Webinars

The NYS DEC has been sponsoring webinars and announcements of these have been circulated to Commission members. It was expressed that this should continue.

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Grove, Ph.D.
Secretary, CCE

The next CCE meeting will be on May 19, 2020 at 6 pm via <i>Zoom</i> videoconferencing.



**PUTNAM VALLEY
COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF THE ENVIRONMENT
Town Hall, Putnam Valley NY 10579**

**APRIL 21, 2020, 6:00 PM – ZOOM MEETING
AGENDA**

Putnam Valley is a Climate Smart Community! – Ralph Smith – 15 Minutes

PV Town Board -Wendy Whetsel, Liaison – 15 Minutes

Areas of Importance – Committee Updates

- **Open Space Inventory**
- **Master Plan**
- **Educational**
- **PV Project Reviews**

PV-CCE Proposed Rules of Order

NYS Association of Conservation Commissions (NYSACC) Membership Status

NYSDEC – Upcoming Webinars

Additional Items for Discussion -