



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

Minutes of the Sept. 15, 2020, Meeting of the Putnam Valley
Commission for the Conservation of the Environment

In Attendance: Chair Eileen Reilly, chair; Liaison to the Town Board Wendy Whetsel; Member Mia Azcue, Student Member Ben Lowder; Member Anthony Proetta, Jr.; Member Julie Ruben; Member Glenn Sapir; Town Board Member Ralph Smith; and Member Mike Usai.

Member Absent: Friedel Muller-Landau

Chair Eileen Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. via Zoom.

Glenn Sapir took the roll and agreed to take the minutes.

Ralph Smith, Town Board Member and Chair of the town's Climate Smart Task Force, gave an update on the task force's activities. He reported that Jeff Szymanski of the Community Choice Aggregation will be addressing the Town Board at its next meeting. He will be addressing how the town or local entities can buy renewable energy at perhaps lower costs than currently being paid. His task force met with representatives of other such task forces in the county, including Philipstown, which has been organized in this regard longer than Putnam Valley, and they have agreed to share information. By polling the CCE, Eileen confirmed that the CCE also would welcome a meeting with Mr. Szymanski, separate from our monthly CCE meetings.

Liaison to the Town Board Wendy Whetsel addressed the topic of Critical Environmental Area identification in conjunction with CCE's assigned task of identifying areas suitable for renewable energy installations. She referred to guidelines issued by the DEC that she had emailed to commission members earlier in the day. Further, she said that maps created for the NRI and a map that she and Pat created showing all 240 parcels in town that are at least 10 acres would facilitate our work, as would learning what other towns have done. Eileen asked for volunteers to work on such a project, and she got affirmative responses from all members. Wendy suggested we invite Town Planner Bruce Barber to this first meeting, so that we can learn of his expectations. Eileen suggested that we meet via Zoom on Tuesday, Sept. 29, and invite Bruce to participate. Also, Mike suggested the Town Board set a deadline for completion of our work, for he felt we would be better committed to complete this task in a timely manner if we had such a deadline.

Eileen thanked Mia and Glenn for articles placed on the CCE Facebook page, and encouraged everyone to contribute if they'd like to do so.

Eileen reported that the Putnam Valley Planning Board's next meeting to review projects will be on Sept. 28. The plans, she stated, can much more easily be reviewed in large printouts rather than digitally on a computer screen.

Glenn reported that he had been in touch with three professionals in the recycling industry who have agreed to participate in a CCE meeting, and asked for approval to formally invite them to

such a meeting. That was unanimously approved. He would issue invitations for a Tuesday, Nov. 10 Zoom meeting at 6 p.m. and would advise Eileen as to whether that date will work for them. The questions that they will initially address are “What is supposed to happen to our recyclables put out at curbside and in vending machines or returned over the counter?” and “What is actually happening to those recyclables today?” The meeting then would be open to questions and answers. The speakers would be asked for permission to record the meeting for a possible link on our Facebook and even town website pages and perhaps to be shown on our public access channel. Eileen was to ask Tony Arrien to supervise the recording of the meeting if permission is granted by our guests.

Under New Business, Julie requested that Glen Baisley be asked why minutes of recent meetings have not been posted on the town’s website.

Glenn reported that an insect (biting midges)-transmitted disease called Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) is affecting deer in Putnam and Orange and counties. It is a lethal illness to deer (not dangerous to humans), and if any dead deer are encountered, a person should call the Town Highway Department to pick up the deer. The carcasses would then be taken to a central location, where they would be picked up by the DEC. The insects will die off with the first hard frost, ending the current health threat to deer.

Before adjourning the meeting, Eileen asked for a volunteer to become the CCE Recording Secretary, the main job being taking minutes of our meetings. CCE’s newest member, Anthony Proetta, Jr., stepped up, receiving the thanks of the rest of the commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Sapir, CCE Member