



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

MINUTES OF THE MAY 18, 2021, MEETING OF
THE PUTNAM VALLEY COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE
ENVIRONMENT

In attendance: CCE Members Mia Azcue, Chair Eileen Reilly, Glenn Sapir and Michael Usai, and Town Board Liaison Wendy Whetsel. Absent: CCE Member Julie Ruben

Chair Eileen Reilly called the meeting to order at Town Hall at 6:15 p.m.

Town Board Liaison Wendy Whetsel gave an update on several topics. In regard to Putnam Valley's participation in Community Solar, the program is on hold. There will be a meeting featuring Joe Montouri from Sustainable Putnam on May 25 at Town Hall to discuss a different Solar opportunity.

Relevant to news on solar energy, Wendy reported that a long-put-off project, funded by a grant, to install solar panels in the area of Town Hall to provide energy to the town government complex, has been finalized, with the decision made to place the panels on the ground near the town's recreation and parks building, near Oscawana Lake Rd.

Regarding the Noise Code proposed for the town, a committee will be formed to consider all public comments and finalize the Noise Code proposal.

Next, Wendy updated us on the Agricultural Code. Anyone in the Agricultural District must now be in the County Ag District and follow their regulations. We learned that any code has to be approved by the county. Mia raised the point of the rise in people raising chickens. She was concerned about one resident's coop, which extended close to Peekskill Hollow Creek. She fears the owner is emptying buckets of chicken excrement in the creek.

Eileen reported that she was unable to attend the most recent Planning Board meeting.

Eileen updated us on the status of the proposed solar farm on Foothill Street. The proposed project is still under review by the Town of Yorktown Planning Board.

Eileen reported that she is very optimistic about the work being done by the Putnam County Solid Waste Management Group. Both she and Town Supervisor Oliverio represent PV at these meetings. Unfortunately, the monthly meeting for May was canceled.

Eileen gave a rundown of virtual meetings of interest that have been scheduled that CCE members might choose to attend. Those meetings were listed in the meeting agenda.

We then concentrated the remainder of the meeting getting an update from Mike Usai on the progress we have made on identifying and recommending Critical Environmental Areas in the town. Mike indicated that the CCE had identified three areas to consider: One area from Trump Park to Bryant Pond, adjacent to the Taconic; Wiccopee Reservoir to Peekskill Hollow Creek; and Canopus Hollow Creek corridor. Mike was asked to develop a map showing the town and these areas, to be encircled on the map, for distribution at our next meeting devoted to the CEA. That meeting was scheduled for Wed., May 26, at 6 p.m. in Town Hall, depending on availability of space. Wendy was asked to investigate that availability.

We noted that whatever areas we select, we need to be able to provide justification for their selection and we need to be able to answer the question, "Why is it important to be doing this?" It was suggested that Nate Nardi-Cyrus of the DEC could be helpful in our articulating the justifications.

We scheduled our next CCE meeting for Tuesday, June 15, at 6 p.m. at Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn Sapir, CCE Member

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