



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

**MINUTES OF THE 10/28/21 MEETING OF THE CCE**

**In attendance: Chair Eileen Reilly, Michael Usai, Glenn Sapir, Julie Ruben (via phone) and Liaison to the Town Board Wendy Whetsel**

**Absent: Mia Azcue**

**Eileen Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:18 p.m. at the Putnam Valley Library.**

Eileen called for a volunteer to serve as Recording Secretary, and Glenn Sapir offered to serve.

Wendy Whetsel reported that the town budget will be approved sometime after the election on Nov. 2. Eileen asked Wendy to confirm that the traditionally budgeted amount of \$500 for CCE activities be proposed in the new budget.

Wendy reported that federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds (1 million dollars received by the Putnam Valley Town Board) will go toward several projects, including improving culverts and dams. The CCE can write to the Town Board if it wishes to propose other projects.

Wendy reported that Ampion will soon be reaching a contract agreement with the Town for its community solar program. Individuals wishing to sign up for the program can find instructions on the Town website.

Eileen appealed for items to be placed on the CCE Facebook page.

Julie reported that she had previously sent a link to all CCE members for a DEC video on invasive species.

Discussion ensued on the three Critical Environmental Area proposals being developed by the CCE. Mike Usai's proposal seems to be the most detailed and advanced, so it was recommended to Glenn Sapir and Mia Azcue (absent from the meeting) to use Mike's current proposal as a template, so that the proposals we put forth have a sense of uniformity, as recommended by Nate Nardi-Cyrus of the DEC. Julie offered to edit the proposals to make them conform. Mike agreed to call Nate for step-by-step advice, and we decided to appeal to the Hudson Highlands Land Trust for help in mapping the proposed CEAs and for any advice on how to proceed with our proposals.

Eileen distributed a report on the Putnam County Solid Waste Management Plan, which included a long list of suggestions.

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## NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION

Glenn shared discussion at a recent virtual forum of local candidates held at Temple Beth Shalom in Mahopac on Oct. 24 at which he brought up the subject of the proposed solar panel farm in Yorktown adjacent to the Putnam Valley High School and Middle School campus. Remarks from Yorktown town officials who were present indicated that they were moving ahead with the project while following all environmental laws, including tree laws, in place. They mentioned that an environmental consulting firm had been hired for guidance on the project. A suggestion was made that a Putnam Valley resident or, even more preferably, a Yorktown resident write to local newspapers and other media opposing the project, pointing out the environmental damage the proposed solar farm could cause.

Eileen reported that coming before the Planning Board is a proposed site for a cell tower on Porter Road. Comments from the CCE have been invited. Mike took home the plans for further investigation.

The next meeting of the CCE was set for Thursday, Nov. 18, at 6 p.m. at the PV Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Sapir,  
Recording Secretary

### **Action Items:**

**All Members: Suggest any environmentally beneficial projects for which the ARPA funds might be used.**

**Wendy: Confirm that the proposed Town budget includes \$500 for CCE activities.**

**Glenn and Mia: Review and revise where necessary so that their CEA proposals will conform with Mike's proposal.**

**Mike, Glenn and Mia: Send CEA proposals (Mia and Glenn: after you've revised yours to conform with Mike's) to Julie for editing.**

**Julie: Edit the three CEA proposals, aiming at uniformity, upon receipt from Mike, Mia and Glenn.**

**Mike: Call Nate Nardi-Cyrus for step-by-step advice as we progress in our CEA proposals. Also, come up with any recommendations regarding the proposed cell tower.**

**Eileen: Contact the Hudson Highlands Land Trust for help and advice on mapping our CEA proposals and on taking the next steps in their development. Also, try to identify and contact a Yorktown resident who might be willing to write a letter to local editors regarding the proposed solar farm adjacent to the PV HS and MS campus.**

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