



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

MINUTES OF THE 12/16/21 MEETING OF THE CCE

In attendance: Chair Eileen Reilly, Glenn Sapir, Julie Ruben (via telephone), Mia Azcue, Liaison to the Town Board Wendy Whetsel.

Absent: Mike Usai

Eileen Reilly called the meeting at the Putnam Valley Library to order at 6:15 p.m.

Eileen asked for an update on the CCE's proposal(s) for the adoption of a Critical Environmental Area. Glenn Sapir reported that he, Mia Azcue and Mike Usai had developed proposed CEAs and had forwarded them to Julie Ruben prior to the Nov. 18 CCE meeting. The plan was for Julie to edit the three proposals for conformity, then have Mike present them to Town Wetlands Inspector Bruce Barber for his input. Once one of the three proposals was selected, we would have to get funding to GIS map the area. Next would be discussing the proposal with the Planning Board and then presenting the proposal to residents within the CEA. After taking all comments into consideration, the final CEA proposal would be presented to the Town Board. Having received those edited proposals, Glenn sent Julie additional edits, Mia said she had no additional edits, and Julie was to reach out to Mike on 12/17 to see if he had any edits. Then Julie is to send the three proposals to Mike so that he may approach Bruce Barber.

Julie also agreed to contact both Hudsonia and the DEC to learn of suggested next steps in securing funding for the mapping of the proposed CEA and direction on how to get that done.

Eileen moved on to the topic of Yorktown's proposed solar farm on land adjacent to the Putnam Valley High School campus. She said that she spoke to a person associated with the Yorktown Planning Board, who informed Eileen that the project is still "under review." She also got the impression that Yorktown was considering a moratorium on proposed ground solar farms, several of which have been proposed in that town. Glenn agreed to write a letter on behalf of the CCE to the Yorktown Planning Board, but asked for input for inclusion in the letter. Julie said she would send him the letter previously sent by the CCE, and Glenn said he would try to get a copy of the letters sent by our town supervisor and the school district superintendent. He also said he might be able to attend the Yorktown Planning Board meeting scheduled for the following Monday.

Eileen reported that she had nothing further to report on the status of the proposed cell tower project at 30 Potters Road.

Wendy Whetsel said she had attended a meeting in White Plains, where she viewed and then purchased the documentary, "Generation Zapped," which described the negative effects of

electromagnetic waves on people. She would make the DVD available to other CCE members. Some stated they had already viewed the program online.

Wendy gave a report as the Town Board's liaison to the CCE. Her term will end at the end of the year, and she reported that a new liaison has not yet been announced. She also said that nothing new had been announced by the PV Climate Smart Task Force on how to use federal and Ampion (community solar provider) funds. One suggestion made was for bike racks. The CCE favored the idea of one or more high-speed electric vehicle charging stations, the top location priority given to the parking lot behind the bank building at Oregon Corners. Julie offered to write a letter to the Climate Smart Task Force making that recommendation.

Eileen brought up the topic of outreach to Putnam Valley residents. Wendy wishes to educate them to help them make better choices. One way is for her to give an eco-tip at Town Board meetings or give the new liaison a report to read at those meetings. Such topics could be encouraging the use of items made of recyclable materials and the use of items that are recyclable. If we have such tips or information, we should send them to Eileen to be posted on the CCE's Facebook page

We moved on to New Business.

Glenn suggested that we use money in the CCE budget toward GIS mapping.

Julie reported that our \$75 annual dues for membership in the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions was due, and Julie was to forward to Wendy the invoice so that those dues may be paid from this year's budget.

Eileen reported that her two-year term as chair of the CCE was expiring and, though she wished to continue to serve on the CCE, she did not wish to seek another term as chair. Everyone present thanked her for the great job she had done in leading our commission. Then all members present were given a chance to express their interest in succeeding Eileen. Wendy was elected to the position, effective after she is appointed to the commission in January.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 20, at 6 pm at the Putnam Valley Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Sapir, Recording Secretary

Action Items:

JULIE: Contact Mike for edits to the CEA proposals. Complete incorporating edits to the three proposals and then forward them to Mike, copying the rest of the CCE members. Contact Hudsonia and DEC about next steps in securing funding for mapping of the CEA and direction on getting the mapping done.

Send Glenn copy of previously sent letter to the Yorktown Planning Board (Julie immediately completed this task).

Write a letter to the town's Climate Smart Task Force on behalf of the CCE proposing high-speed electric vehicle charging station(s), the preferred spot being at Oregon Corners. Send Wendy invoice for annual dues for the NYSACC.

MIKE: Offer to Julie any edits to the three proposed CEAs. After receiving the three edited CEA proposals from Julie, contact Bruce Barber and explain what we are doing and ask if he would review the three proposals and comment on them while selecting the one he would most like to see submitted.

GLENN: Write letter to the Yorktown Planning Board, expressing PV CCE's opposition to the proposed solar farm adjacent to the high school/middle school campus.

Try to get copies of letters previously sent by our Town Supervisor and Superintendent of Schools.

Try to attend the Yorktown Planning Board's meeting on Monday, Dec. 20 at 7 pm at the Yorktown Town Hall, 353 Underhill Ave.

WENDY: Submit invoice forwarded by Julie for payment of dues to the NYSACC.

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