



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

**MINUTES OF THE JAN. 26, 2022, MEETING OF THE  
PUTNAM VALLEY COMMISSION  
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

In Attendance: Commission members Mia Azcue, Eileen Reilly, Julie Ruben, Glenn Sapir and Mike Usai and Town Board Liaison to the CCE Ralph Smith

Absent: CCE Chair Wendy Whetsel

In Wendy Whetsel's absence, Eileen Reilly called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Eileen mentioned the passing of Wendy's husband, Bill, and we all, in our own way, paid our respects to Wendy and to Bill's memory. It was announced that the wake would be held at Heritage Funeral Home on Morrisey Drive in Lake Peekskill on Sunday, Jan. 30, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Town Board Member Ralph Smith was introduced as the new liaison to the CCE. Ralph also serves as the chair of the town's Climate Smart Committee. He gave a report on a few relevant developments. First, he said that the Climate Smart Committee will be reconvening in this new year. He also reported that by Putnam Valley citizens and town offices switching to Ampion, the town's community clean-energy provider, the town has raised about \$15,000, a third of which is in the form of a grant from NYSERDA. He invites suggestions on how to use that money, and his committee will then make its recommendation to the Town Board, which will make the final decision. Julie Ruben confirmed that she had submitted a formal suggestion on behalf of the CCE to use the funds for a charging station located at Oregon Corners. Ralph put forth another idea, that being to partially fund an official electric Putnam Valley vehicle, perhaps one used by the building inspector. Some CCE members voice the opinion that the funds might be better spent for a more visible, educational and long-lasting use. The town must let NYSERDA know in March what the grant will be used for.

Ralph also reported that discussion continues on the use of bubblers on Lake Oscawana. Ralph reported that town law bans the bubblers, but there have been accusations that some private parties are operating bubblers. The town building inspector will be investigating.

Regarding the Critical Environmental Area (CEA) proposals, Eileen reported that Wendy had presented the three CEA proposals to town planner/wetlands inspector Bruce Barber, who was favorably impressed. Bruce passed them on to new Town Supervisor Jackie Annabi for her review. Bruce also informed Wendy that he could do the necessary mapping to incorporate into any proposal we might advance. CCE members did point out that this process was not what had been decided upon and recorded in the minutes of our last meeting.

Julie reported on her correspondence with Hudsonia, which stated that it could provide mapping, consulting and municipal services. A couple of grant opportunities were reported by Julie, but receiving either would probably entail a wait of several months. Julie was asked to get a quote from Hudsonia for mapping. Glenn Sapir volunteered to contact Bruce Barber regarding his fee for that service. Perhaps CCE can pay for the mapping without the funds from a grant, but should still apply for the grant(s) for reimbursement. Glenn also said he would ask Bruce for an evaluation of the three CEAs proposed. Glenn asked Julie to send him (Glenn) pdfs of the three proposals.

Eileen reported that the proposed Foothill Street solar farm, in Yorktown and adjacent to the PV High School and Middle School campus, is proceeding. Mike Usai asked for a timetable on the project, and Eileen said she would try to ascertain that information.

Eileen reported that the owner of the land formerly called Living Springs Retreat on Bryant Pond Road is intending to clear the property of dumped debris in preparation of erecting a cell tower on the property.

Eileen reported on another proposed cell tower site, on Porters Road, off of Peekskill Hollow Road. That project has not yet been approved, but the owners have been given permission to conduct a “balloon test” or a “crane test” to evaluate the visual impact of such an installation.

Eileen said that she would put a note about Ampion on our CCE Facebook page to alert other towns people to this opportunity to contract for clean energy. Eileen invited CCE members to send contributions to herself or Mia Azcue for posting on the Facebook page.

A discussion on how to environmentally best handle snow on the roads ensued.

Eileen polled the members on the best day of the week for a meeting. Tuesday seemed to probably work best for the members present. Eileen will follow up with Wendy, who will then designate a date of our next meeting.

The meeting ended at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Glenn Sapir, CCE Recording Secretary

**ACTIONS ITEMS:**

**Julie: Fulfill a request from the CCE regarding Bill Whetsel’s passing. Get a quote from Hudsonia for mapping one, two and three maps. Send Glenn pdfs of the three CEA proposals (which she did immediately after the meeting).**

**Eileen: Try to ascertain a timetable for work on the Foothill Street solar farm. Discuss with Wendy possible CCE meeting days.**

**Wendy: Establish our next meeting date.**

**Glenn: Contact Bruce Barber to get a quote on his mapping services and to learn of his preferential order of the three CEA proposals.**

###