



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

**Minutes of the March 8, 2022, CCE Meeting**

In attendance: Chair Wendy Whetsel, members Eileen Reilly, Glenn Sapir, Mia Azcue, Mike Usai and Julie Ruben (via phone) and attendees Jean McGee (prospective member) and Tom Carano

Wendy Whetsel called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Wendy welcomed PV resident Jean McGee, who attended our last meeting and has expressed an interest in joining the CCE.

Wendy reported on attending the meeting of the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions and told of the breakout group meeting on solar energy. The common problem expressed was the objection to clear-cutting to create solar farms, when alternatives such as rooves of buildings, raised panels in parking lots (to continue accommodating parking) and cleared fields would be preferable and save trees. Wendy suggested we conduct a campaign to educate the public on the value of trees. Messaging and communications vehicles would have to be decided upon. Though Eileen Reilly volunteered to look into creating a new Facebook page, it was decided to stay with the one we have and simply explore means of increasing traffic to the page. Glenn Sapir urged Wendy's monthly report at our Town Board meeting to include information on the benefits of trees, so that this information would be shared not only with citizens attending the meeting but also by those who watch the televised proceedings. It was mentioned that we could promote tree sales, publicizing the distribution programs conducted by the Soil and Water Conservation District, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the DEC, among others. Glenn volunteered to research programs that give incentives to towns to plant trees and offer due recognition for those efforts.

Wendy introduced Tom Carano, who showed an interest and was impressed with our proposal for Critical Environmental Areas and had additional thoughts he felt might help. Wendy and Mike have volunteered to meet with Supervisor Annabi to keep her up to date on our CEA proposals.

Wendy reported that the HHLT had provided the names of two GIS mapmakers, but Julie reminded us that Hudsonia is willing to provide that service at no charge to us.

Jean McGee gave a detailed proposal for a town-wide food scrap composting program. She mentioned that Scarsdale had an established program and that Philipstown is in the process of creating one, based on the Scarsdale model. In that scenario food scraps are picked up from homes and hauled to a processing center. The closest composting facility to PV is in Cortlandt. We are going to discuss further options as we know composting reduces the amount of refuse our haulers pick up, reducing cost and benefitting the environment.

Eileen asked for volunteers to review drawings submitted to the Planning Board, and both. Mike and Jean volunteered to help. Meeting every two weeks to discuss the plans seemed to work for Eileen, Mike and Jean.

Julie asked for clarification as to whom to send a letter she has drafted at the CCE request, restating our objection to the clear-cutting, solar farm proposed for Foothill Street, in Yorktown but adjacent to the PV HS/MS campus. It was suggested that she send a copy to the Yorktown supervisor, the Yorktown CCE and to the Yorktown Planning Board.

Jean was unanimously elected to fill the vacant seat on the CCE.

Before adjourning the meeting, Wendy pointed out a couple of “To do’s” before our next meeting. We need to resolve our Facebook issue; and Jean will get more info on community food scrap composting.

The next meeting was set for Tuesday, April 12, at 5:30 p.m. at the PV Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Sapir  
Recording Secretary