



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

Minutes of the April 12, 2022, CCE Meeting

In attendance: Chair Wendy Whetsel, members Eileen Reilly, Jean McGee, Glenn Sapir, Mike Usai and Julie Ruben.

Absent: Member Mia Azcue

Wendy Whetsel called the Zoom meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Wendy and Mike Usai reported that they had met with Town Supervisor Annabi to discuss the Critical Environmental Areas proposal that the CCE had been developing. For the moment Supervisor Annabi is working on other priorities but will address this later on. A vote was taken not to pursue the grant, which resulted in a four to two majority for waiting on such an application.

Wendy expressed belief that superimposing the proposed CEAs over the HHLT Green Corridors map could provide helpful information.

Wendy mentioned that she had forwarded the scoping document on climate change to all members for our review and to see if any particular section interested members.

There was no additional report on the idea of town composting that the CCE is exploring.

Wendy mentioned the list of proposed ARPA funding projects as put forth by Supervisor Annabi.

Eileen Reilly and Wendy reported that in talking with County Legislator Bill Gouldman they learned that a town cleanup will be scheduled for a couple of weeks after Earth Day (which is April 22). Bill Gouldman will contact Wendy with details.

No update on Planning Board activities. Eileen did say that the Planning Board's next meeting was scheduled for April 25, and she planned to attend.

Wendy reported that she and Eileen have been discussing the idea of creating a private, rather than business Facebook page, and exchanging ideas of how to make the new proposed page more reader friendly and interactive.

Jean McGee reported on her research concerning the Tree City USA program run by the Arbor Day Foundation. She learned that while Westchester County has several municipalities that have earned Tree City USA recognition and Dutchess County only a few, no towns in Putnam County have earned that distinction, which is recognized with street signs, as those seen at many of the entrances to Yorktown coming from our town. Jean reported on the four requirements to earn Tree City USA status and said she would learn about other rewards, besides the street signs, for gaining that status. Because it appeared Putnam Valley could easily meet all of the requirements, Jean was encouraged to begin the application process, and Glenn volunteered to assist Jean if she needed any help. The goal is to build an appreciation

of trees and instill a sense of pride in PV citizens for the forests and individual trees that grow in our town.

The CCE and Wendy would reach out to Ralph Smith, to report on the status of the Climate Smart Task Force current work.

Discussion took place over the construction work at the two bridges over Peekskill Hollow Creek and seeing if there is any negative effect on the brook.

Next meeting was scheduled for the Community Room of the PV Library on Tuesday, May 10, at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Sapir
Recording Secretary

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THIS MEETING:

WENDY: Contact Ralph Smith to learn of the status of the town's Climate Task Force activities.
Pass along the details of the town cleanup when they become available

EILEEN, WENDY and MIA: Begin development of a Facebook page for conservation and environmental topics and make it more user friendly and interactive.

JEAN: Pursue the application process for the Tree City USA program.
Learn all of the benefits of such recognition.

GLENN: Assist Jean if called upon to help in the Tree City USA application process.
Further explore construction work on the bridges over Peekskill Hollow Creek.

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