



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

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 14, 2022, MEETING OF THE PV CCE

In Attendance: Chair Wendy Whetsel, Members Mia Azcue, Eileen Reilly, Julie Ruben (by phone), Glenn Sapir and Mike Usai

Absent: Jean McGee

Wendy Whetsel began the meeting at 5:45 in the Community Room of the Putnam Valley Library.

Wendy reported that she had heard that the Town had received many complaints against the option of using ProcettaCOR, a herbicide, to help control milfoil in Lake Oscawana. At the regular Town Board Meeting on June 22 people may speak up during the Public Comment period to voice their objections, including their reasoning.

Ralph Smith, the CCE liaison to the Town Board, will be asked to attend our next CCE meeting.

Wendy reported that the Hudson Highlands Land Trust forwarded to us its proposal of its Green Corridors initiative. She passed along the resulting map of proposed conserved areas, and Wendy asked Mike Usai to study that map to see how it might work with the Critical Environmental Area proposal the CCE has been developing. Glenn Sapir recognized outgoing HHLT employee Nicole Wooten for her work on the Green Corridors project and her close working relationship with the CCE and suggested that she be officially recognized in some way. Julie Ruben volunteered to write some form of recognition that we would post on our Facebook page and, perhaps, on our town website page.

Wendy reported that Town Supervisor Annabi had given the CCE permission to open a new email account under the old account's name or a new name. Glenn volunteered to contact the town's IT official to get help in setting up that email account and allowing access to all CCE members. Wendy said she would forward to Glenn that gentleman's contact information.

Wendy distributed proposed copy on Why Trees Are Important, and Glenn offered edits and Mike took the copies for further review and editing. After editing, these can be posted on our Facebook page. Wendy reported that she had secured written permission from the two sources of information to post the material. Wendy and Eileen Reilly volunteered to be co-admins on our Facebook page. Wendy wishes to renew our efforts to invite photo submissions of What's in Your Backyard for our Facebook page.

Glenn reported that two of the CCE's previous work, an article on safe alternatives to Roundup and a video on removal of invasive vines, are on our page on the Town's website. Eileen asked Glenn to send her the links to those two files. Glenn mentioned that the DEC has announced its intention to ban glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, from use on state properties. The public comment period ends on Aug. 22. Glenn promised to send the relevant press release to all CCE members.

Wendy brought up the state Scoping Document dealing with Climate Change, and it was suggested that the town's Climate Smart Task Force, chaired by Town Board Member Ralph Smith, be the committee to deal with this document.

Wendy reported that in speaking with CCE Member Jean McGee, who originally proposed the idea of a town composting center, they agreed that their efforts might be better placed in educating citizens on individual composting and perhaps even develop community composting sites. Lake Peekskill was mentioned as such a potential site, and Wendy volunteered to discuss that possibility with Agnes Powe.

To educate the public on recycling and other matters of concern to the CCE, Glenn suggested that each member of the CCE identify an existing article or other info already online, get permission for us to post it and send the link to Eileen before the next meeting. Furthermore, we have a chance to present information in the form of handouts at the PV Farmer's Market, held at the Tompkins Corners Community Center on Fridays. We can reprint articles from our Facebook and town websites and even have business cards printed up once our new email address is established. Eileen and Mia plan to represent the CCE at the Farmer's Market, and Glenn said he might be able to help out from time to time.

Glenn gave a report on the CCE's investigation of being recognized as a Tree City USA honoree, stating the town simply does not qualify because of a lack of both an official agency in charge of trees and a budget of at least \$3 per PV resident allocated for trees and tree conservation. The pursuit of such recognition is thus on hold.

Julie brought up the idea of changing the town's bus fleets to electric, and the CCE again felt the topic should better be discussed by the town's Climate Smart Task Force.

The previously discussed proposal to run a Repair Café was brought up again. The PV Library seems like an ideal venue. Eileen said that she would reach out to Joe Montouri to learn of some of the logistics behind the success Repair Café that Sustainable Putnam presented.

Some discussion took place on environmentally friendly options for snow removal on roads.

The next meeting was scheduled for July 12 at 5:30 p.m. at the PV Library Community Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THIS MEETING:

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| WENDY WHETSEL | <ul style="list-style-type: none">●Request Ralph Smith's presence at our July 12 meeting.●Provide Glenn with contact information for our town's IT chief.●Receive from Mike edits on Why Trees Are Important and forward to Eileen for posting on our Facebook page and town website.●Invite public to submit photos for What's in Your Backyard for our Facebook page.●Discuss composting center possibility with Agnes Powe.●Select a relevant item or article already on the Internet, secure permission to reprint it and forward link and appropriate credit to Eileen. |
| EILEEN REILLY | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reach out to Joe Montouri to learn of some of the logistics behind the success Repair Café that Sustainable Putnam held.●Select a relevant item or article already on the Internet, secure permission to reprint it and forward link and appropriate credit and post it on our Facebook page. |
| MIKE USAI | <ul style="list-style-type: none">●Review Green Corridors map and see how it might work with the CEA map.●Review and edit Why Trees Are Important and return to Wendy for posting on our Facebook page and Town web page.●Select a relevant item or article already on the Internet, secure permission to reprint it and forward link and appropriate credit to Eileen. |
| JULIE RUBEN | <ul style="list-style-type: none">●Write recognition of Nicole Wooten and distribute it to CCE members of final edit before sending to Eileen for posting on Facebook page.●Select a relevant item or article already on the Internet, secure permission to reprint it and forward link and appropriate credit to Eileen. |
| MIA AZCUE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">●Select a relevant item or article already on the Internet, secure permission to reprint it and forward link and appropriate credit to Eileen. |
| JEAN McGEE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">●Select a relevant item or article already on the Internet, secure permission to reprint it and forward link and appropriate credit to Eileen. |

GLENN SAPIR

- After receiving contact info from Wendy, work with town IT chief to establish new email account with all CCE members gaining access.
- Send DEC press release on proposed ban to all CCE members.
- Select a relevant item or article already on the Internet, secure permission to reprint it and forward link and appropriate credit to Eileen
- Send Eileen links to safe herbicide alternatives and safe invasive vine removal.

Respectfully Submitted,

Glenn Sapir, Recording Secretary