



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

**MINUTES OF THE JULY 12, 2022, MEETING OF THE PV CCE**

In Attendance: Chair Wendy Whetsel, Members, Eileen Reilly, Julie Ruben (by phone), Glenn Sapir and Mike Usai, Town Board Liaison Ralph Smith

Absent: Mia Azcue, Jean McGee

Wendy Whetsel began the meeting at 5:40 in the Community Room of the Putnam Valley Library.

Wendy Whetsel passed around the list of priorities established by the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions, based on input from CCEs around the state, regarding the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. The list was given to Town Board Liaison Ralph Smith, who also chairs the town's Climate Smart Task Force.

Wendy referred to an article that cited Peekskill's concerns to strengthen the protection of its water quality. Most of that city's watershed and water supply lies in Putnam Valley. Wendy reported that Supervisor Annabi, Town Planner and Wetlands Inspector Bruce Barber and Building Inspector Rich Quaglietta have been representing Putnam Valley in talks with Peekskill and other officials on this issue. Ralph reported that Peekskill had submitted an agreement on watershed management that would have given that city oversight regarding proposed development in their watershed, which they wished Putnam Valley to sign, but thus far the town has not signed on to this proposal. Ralph said he would try to learn what the town's official response to Peekskill's proposal has been. Wendy said she would ask her Peekskill CCE counterpart, Elaine Caccoma, to explain from where funding for purchase of land in the watershed and planting of trees would come.

Regarding a new Facebook page and email account for the CCE, it was decided to offer Susie Cummings the job of creating a Facebook page, ONLY if it would be compatible with Wendy's computer, and Glenn agreed to establish a [pvcce@gmail.com](mailto:pvcce@gmail.com) email account, sharing the password with all CCE members.

Wendy passed out material she would like to use as handouts at the PV Farmer's Market, including the final version of "Why Trees Are Important," identification of poison ivy, oak and sumac and identification of trees through their leaves. Eileen, Julie, Wendy and Glenn all said that they could occasionally represent the CCE at the Farmer's Market on Friday afternoons. Though it wasn't discussed, someone must take the lead in establishing a schedule for coverage.

Regarding possibly establishing a community composting station in Lake Peekskill, Wendy reported that she had spoken to Agnes Powe, who said she would be happy to discuss the matter. Wendy passed along Agnes' contact info to Jean McGee so she could follow up on this matter.

Wendy brought up the issue of the application for a permit to apply ProcellaCor in Lake Oscawana to eradicate milfoil. Ralph reported that the matter has not been resolved by the Town Board. Mike Usai offered information on an alternative, of which Ralph made note.

Julie reminded the group of an upcoming field workshop on Habitat Assessment to be held at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation on Friday, July 22. She has reserved a slot, but it conflicts with another commitment, so she said she would again send out to all CCE members information on the workshop and asked that anyone who might be interested in filling her slot contact her ASAP.

Julie asked Ralph for a report on the Climate Smart Task Force. Ralph acknowledged the need to call a meeting and reported that Rich Quaglietta had attended a workshop that met one of the four requirements for the town to earn Climate Smart Community Bronze Certified status. The town must meet one more requirement, according to Ralph. Such status will entitle the town to new sources of grant funding.

Glenn expressed disappointment that only two of our seven members provided Eileen with a single item to post on our Facebook page, despite two emails sent out as reminders. It had been agreed that each member would provide an item of interest each month to Eileen for posting to have a continual supply of content to make our page current and of inviting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 9, at 5:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Putnam Valley Library.

The meeting ended at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Sapir, Recording Secretary

#### ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN AS A RESULT OF THIS MEETING:

##### WENDY WHETSEL

- Ask her Peekskill CCE counterpart, Elaine Caccoma, to explain from where funding for purchase of land in the watershed and planting of trees would come?

- Contract Susie Cummings to create a new Facebook page for the CCE—ONLY if Wendy’s computer will be compatible in sending items to be posted.
- Make suitable copies of handouts for the PV Farmer’s Market.
- 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

- Reach out to Joe Montouri to learn of some of the logistics behind Sustainable Putnam’s successful Repair Café.
- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- Reach out to Agnes Powe to discuss a community composting station in Lake Peekskill.
- Select a relevant item or article already on the Internet, secure permission to reprint it and forward link and appropriate credit to Eileen.

RALPH SMITH

- Update the CCE on the town’s response to Peekskill’s proposal on watershed management.

GLENN SAPIR

- Establish new [pvccce@gmail.com](mailto:pvccce@gmail.com) email account with all CCE members gaining access.
- Select a relevant item or article already on the Internet, secure permission to reprint it and forward link and appropriate credit to Eileen

Respectfully Submitted,

Glenn Sapir, Recording Secretary