

PV CCE Meeting March 9th, 2023

Members present: Ralph (liaison), Julie, Wendy, Aubrey, Mia

Members of the public: Judy, Nick, and

Meeting begins 5:32pm

Kilmer Project update:

- Removed 162 trees with intentions to plant back 162 sizeable trees (two-inch diameter)
- 2/3rds of the trees replanted upland with deer protection tube, 1/3 replanted in wetland buffer zone.
- Town took out a 5-year bond to replace any trees that die in this time period.

Wendy to introduce OSI ridgeline map at next Town Board Meeting (3/15)

- Will be a reference for Town Board and Planning Committee
- We should research the various benefits of ridgelines

Discussion on best way to educate the public on benefit of trees (air and water filtration, hosts for insects, fungi, birds). Made Facebook but need to add phone number. Instagram and Nextdoor seem to be better mediums.

Nick initiates a long discussion on water in Putnam Valley and specifically PFAS. Informs us that the Putnam County Department of Health gave a presentation at the town board work session on 3/8. They have found PFAS in several wells on Oscawana Lake Road. Urges testing of wells which is approx. \$700 per well and asked if the town, county, or state could provide funding for testing.

- There wasn't any discussion after the presentation at the work session, but open discussion is available at the Town Board meeting on the third Wednesday of the month (3/15)
- Encourage testing, but PFAS appear to be ubiquitous -> personal water filtration may be best bet for remediation at this point
- Discussion on where the levels are the highest in the town, elementary school tested positive for PFAS in 2018 but had none as of 1/4/2023 due to new filtration.
- We talked about hosting a meeting for the public at the library independent of the town. Last night's work session was a good start, but if we can get

the word out then we can educate a larger group plus open it up for discussion. “What’s in the water, where it came from, and how you can protect yourself”

- Potential for bulk sampling at \$200-\$250 per sample for 20 samples/day for several days up in Newburgh.

Christy Kroll brought to our attention that Camp Combe wants to make a large expansion, including a 500-person amphitheater and 150 parking spots, that would alter 4 acres and block wildlife corridor.

- This is on the agenda at the planning board meeting on 3/20 where they will hear from the public (<https://www.putnamvalley.gov/calendar-events/planning-board-meeting-39/>)
- Christy (mck55@cornell.edu) also said she’d help us talk to someone at the town about a website.

Adjourned: 7:06

Submitted respectfully by Aubrey Carter