



**PUTNAM VALLEY  
COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION  
OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

**MINUTES OF THE SEPT. 14, 2023, MEETING OF  
THE PV CCE**

In Attendance: Chair Wendy Whetsel, CCE members Mia Azcue, Julie Ruben, Glenn Sapir and Mike Usai. Guest: Christie Kroll  
Absent: Members Aubrey Carter and Eileen Reilly

The meeting was called to order at the Putnam Valley Library Community Room at 6:06 p.m.

Chair Person Wendy Whetsel reported that she had been told that no new proposals regarding Camp Combe or the Barger Street cemetery have been submitted for discussion at the upcoming Sept. 25 meeting of the Planning Board. Julie said she would forward her suggestions regarding the cemetery project to Mike Usai, who would then submit the CCE's comments on the matter to the Planning Board. Glenn volunteered to draft a letter to the Town Board and the Planning Board, reminding them of the CCE's role as outlined in the Town Code in decisions regarding proposals affecting wetlands and/or tree cutting. Christie Kroll agreed to email to Glenn the relevant language in the Code. The draft would be sent to Wendy as chair for her signature and subsequent submission to the two boards.

Next was discussion on the Ridgeline Protection Map we were asked to create and then revise. Supervisor Annabi wanted the original map revised to show only ridgelines of 20 percent grade or more (which it did) and depict ridgelines in the portion of the town in which Fahnestock State Park is located. We learned that even though we are able to depict those ridgelines, the State would not like us to do so because the Town has no jurisdiction over the State Park. Mike was asked to draft a letter to Supervisor Annabi, which would explain the jurisdiction issue and simply ask that the last version of the Ridgeline Map be officially accepted for purposes of town planning.

Wendy reported that she and CCE member Aubrey Carter attended the PV Board of Education meeting on Aug. 22, in which they made the case that the CCE is interested in reaching out to the students to learn of their environmental concerns and then decide how to address those concerns. The Board encouraged the CCE to submit a letter stating our objective. Wendy would prefer to have a meeting with school decision makers to find a means of cooperating in a program or event that interests the students.

In talking with the executive director of the Hudson Highland Land Trust, Wendy was directed to talk to part-time HHLT employee Ted Warren regarding mapping open space. She is awaiting information from him. Christie reported that an overlay of open space appears on the Putnam County website. Despite these efforts to further identify open space in Putnam Valley, it was decided to suspend relevant efforts in developing an Open Space Inventory at this time.

Wendy reported that no CCE members except herself were able to volunteer to staff a table at Town Day on Sept. 16. Therefore, she withdrew the CCE from participating in the event. Last year, PV resident Tom Carano provided dozens of seedlings for the CCE to distribute at Town Day. He told Wendy he needs to be notified by spring at the latest if we would like to receive

seedlings again. Wendy was asked to request that Tom provide seedlings for next year, either for distribution at Town Day or at an event held by the CCE.

Under New Business, Mia Azcue explained that her workload this year is making service on the CCE difficult and she would be willing to give up her seat on the CCE. She was encouraged to stay on the CCE through the year, at which time her current term will expire. She agreed to do so.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, Oct. 12, at 6 p.m. at the PV Library Community Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Glenn Sapir, Recording Secretary