



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

**MINUTES OF THE DEC. 14, 2023, MEETING OF THE PUTNAM VALLEY  
COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

In Attendance: CCE members Wendy Whetsel, Aubrey Carter, Mia Azcue, Mike Usai, Glenn Sapir and Julie Ruben (by phone); Guests Christie Kroll, Beth Gorman and Jeff Coran

Absent: CCE Member Eileen Reilly

The meeting was called to order by Chair Wendy Whetsel at around 6:10 p.m. in the Community Room of the Putnam Valley Library.

Wendy reported that Supervisor Annabi has designated Sherry Howard to be the liaison between the Town Board and the CCE.

Glenn Sapir nominated and Wendy seconded a motion to make Mike Usai our recommended chair of the CCE for 2024. This recommendation will be forwarded to the Town Board for confirmation.

Beth Gorman, a Lake Peekskill resident, was on hand as a guest, as she had expressed interest in filling one of the upcoming vacancies on the CCE. She introduced herself and made herself available for any questions. Jeff Coran, a Lake Oscawana resident and another applicant for a seat on the CCE, arrived later and also introduced himself and laid out his credentials. Glenn repeated the protocol that the two applicants would be notified of their status regarding joining the CCE.

Selection of a new Secretary to replace Glenn, whose term expired at the end of the year, was tabled.

Wendy repeated her desire to work with the PV Library in presenting programs in the Community Room under the theme of "Loving Your Backyard." It was agreed that the first several programs should be presented by guest speakers who have already organized their presentations.

Julie Ruben proposed that we use money from remaining funds in this year's CCE budget for dues payments to the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions (NYSACC) for 2024 of \$75 and for 2025 of \$75, if our balance allows. Mia volunteered to contact Marie Angelico in Town Hall to learn of our remaining balance. Then, Mia will let Wendy know of the balance, and Wendy will requisition a check for either the one- or two-year dues payment.

Glenn invited comments on his draft of the CCE's Annual Report to the Town Board. No revisions were offered, and he was asked to email the report to Supervisor Annabi.

Glenn thanked all of the members he has served with for the last six years on the CCE, and he expressed his appreciation of and admiration for their knowledge, passion and dedication.

Wendy asked Mike to reach out to Eileen Reilly to ask of her interest and ability to continue to serve on the CCE, as she has one more year of her term on the commission. If she resigns her seat, Mia Azcue said that she would come back on to the board. Mia has also served the CCE for several years, and has been a dedicated member. Though her term is up and she has opted not to continue as a commission member unless she is needed to fill a vacancy on the commission, she plans to continue to attend meetings and contribute as a nonmember.

The next CCE meeting is slated for Thursday, Jan. 11, at 6 p.m., in the Community Room of the PV Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Sapir, CCE Secretary