

Putnam Valley Commission for the Conservation of the Environment 1/11/2023
Meeting Starts 6:09 PM

Members present: Mike Usai (Chair), Wendy Whetzal, Aubrey Carter, Beth Gorman, and Jeff Coren

Non-member: Christy Kroll, Ted Warren, Sherry Howard (Town Board Liaison)
NYS Association of Conservation Commissions

- Wendy notes that dues were received by NYSACC for 2024 using funds from PVCCE's 2023 budget.
- We should confirm with Marie Angelico (town accountant) that our dues are paid.

Open Space Inventory

- Ted Warren from HHLT briefs the CCE on what comprises an OSI
- An OSI maps all the open space – whether developable or not – for a town. Provides guidance for land conservation. A planning tool.
- There are different criteria you can add (forests, meadows, old structures, priority areas)
- Helps breakdown ecological value of parcels and allows for them to be organized into areas of greater or lesser priority.
- Contract planning consultant, HHLT could help find grants for consultant.
- Need to get buy-in from the town/community.
- First step is to have conversation with Supervisor and Town Board.
- A resolution from the town supporting the OSI would be the best outcome from that first step, but a conversation with the Supervisor is adequate too. The agency funding the OSI needs assurance that the OSI will be used by the town.

Planning Board – Project Reviews

- Camp Combe will be back in front of planning board, but the PB has no meeting in January. CC took storm damage on 7/9 and closed camp after that.
- Beverly Hills Cemetery (on Mill St) has told state Cemetery Board they are looking to clear cut ~50 acres, nothing in front of PB yet.

Environmental Education and Outreach

- Library has ~2,000 person email reach and zoom capabilities
- Wendy introduces "Loving your Backyard" which would be a series of educational programs that address different environmental issues for Putnam Valley.
- Start out with one topic a month hosted at the PV library.

- Another idea is to encourage people to send in pictures that the library can post on their Facebook.
- Programming and outreach should also be presented in Spanish too because lots of families speak English as a second language.
- Sherry will deliver a proposal for the project drafted by Wendy Whetzel to the Town Board for their approval.

Next meeting on 2/8 at 6PM

Meeting adjourned: 7:20 PM