



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

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 10, 2024 MEETING OF  
THE PUTNAM VALLEY COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT

In Attendance: CCE members: Mike Usai, Wendy Whetsel, Jeffrey Coren, Julie Rubin

The meeting began at 6:30 PM at the Putnam Valley Public Library. Mike had prepared an agenda, which guided much of our discussion.

Roll call was taken and is reported above.

The CCE discussed moving forward with the Open Space Inventory and Mike summarized a discussion he had with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust about grant funding and steps the CCE still needs to take to apply for a grant. The next grant cycle for the preferred grant through the Hudson River Estuary Program begins Spring 2025.

The CCE next discussed whether to reconstitute and coordinate Putnam Valley's Climate Smart Community Program. There is a heavy workload associated with coordinating the program and managing projects implemented to meeting program goals and milestones. Several questions were raised about whether the coordinator has to be a town official, time commitment, and other logistical concerns. Jeff will reach out to a contact at Sustainable Putnam's Climate Smart Community Program to discuss and Wendy will circulate a document she has outlining details of the program. The CCE will further discuss at the November meeting.

To follow up on last meeting's presentation on community food scrap recycling, the CCE considered whether to take the lead on initiating a food scrap recycling program in Putnam Valley the basic outline of such a program. The Commission decided to draft a proposal identifying funding, program details, and its administration to be presented to the Town Board for approval. Neighboring towns and communities within Putnam Valley (e.g. Three Arrows) already have community food scrap programs that can serve as models.

This discussion segued to the topic of the importance of engaging the school district and the students about food scrap recycling and other environmental issues in Putnam Valley. There may opportunities for students to earn community service hours through environmental enhancement projects. The CCE will reach out to the Superintendent.

Finally, Julie gave an update on the quarterly meeting of the New York State Association of Conservation Commission's Board of Directors, on which she sits. The Association is a non-profit organization comprised of town, city and village Conservation Commissions and Conservation Boards from across the state the provides a clearinghouse of information and collaboration. The Putnam Valley CCE is a member.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6PM on Thursday November 14, 2024 at the Putnam Valley Public Library.

Mike Usai, Chair