



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

**MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2024 MEETING OF  
THE PUTNAM VALLEY COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT**

In Attendance: CCE members: Mike Usai, Wendy Whetsel, Aubrey Carter, and Jeffrey Coren  
Members of the public: Christi Kroll, Allison Hague, Maeve McGee

The meeting began at 6:10 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 will have a table at Town Day on September 21<sup>st</sup> and discussed logistics and informational handouts. Jeff agreed to pick up a table from Town Hall on Friday Sept. 20 and bring it to Town Day. Wendy provided several handouts on recycling that Beth Gorman and Mike previously agreed to make copies to hand out. Beth will also provide a canopy and 100 packets of native wildflower seed mix to give out. The CCE table will be staffed for the entire Town Day.

The Climate Smart Community discussion was tabled until the full CCE is in attendance.

The CCE discussed the Rabbinical Seminary of America Cemetery project currently before the PV Planning Board. The Planning Board posted the EAF and other review documents on the Town website. The applicant is proposing to construct a cemetery including an administration building, chapel, parking, and driveways totally 12.84 acres of disturbance (per the EAF) on 62.79 acres owned by the Rabbinical Seminary along Barger Street. The project will require a wetland and tree cutting permits from the town. The CCE will review the posted documents.

The CCE briefly discussed how to reach out to students in the Putnam Valley schools to engage them on environmental topics and the CCE's work. The CCE agreed to invite the Putnam Valley Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jeremy Luft to a CCE meeting to discuss how best to engage with the students. Mike will contact Dr. Luft and extend an invitation to him and any faculty he feels should attend.

Allison Hague and Maeve McGee attended the meeting to discuss an initiative they are working on with Julie Ruben and others to start a town composting program in Putnam Valley. They discussed previous composting programs recently begun in Bedford (Bedford 2030) and Philipstown. Both were simple programs that involved a couple of trash can sized containers placed on town property that are emptied weekly by a hauler contracted by the town. The programs are popular in those towns. Potential locations in Putnam Valley were discussed. Grant money is available to offset the program's costs partially or completely. A composting program would require Town Board approval and the CCE would take the lead in developing the proposal and obtaining TB approval. Educational material about composting and an interest survey will be

available at the CCE's table at Town Day. The CCE will discuss the composting program and our interest in pursuing it at a future meeting.

The next meeting will be 6PM on Thursday October 10, 2024 at the Putnam Valley Public Library.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Usai, Chair