



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

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2025 MEETING OF
THE PUTNAM VALLEY COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE
ENVIRONMENT

In Attendance: CCE members: Beth Gorman (Chair), Jeffrey Coren, Julie Ruben (remote), and Mike Usai
Members of the public: Greg Donohue, Leo Alves

The meeting began at 6:30pm.

The roll was called and reported as above.

Town Supervisor Jackie Annabi joined the meeting for the first ten minutes to discuss communication and coordination between the CCE and Town Board surrounding the requirements to apply for a grant to fund the Open Space Inventory (OSI). The options of partnering with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust for the grant application process or using the Town's in-house grant writing consultant were discussed. No decision was made on how the CCE will proceed. The proposed food scraps program was also discussed.

Leo Alves then spoke. Mr. Alves was a CCE member for six years and expressed concern over the CCE's lack of visibility to the Town Board and public. He suggested the CCE get its own email address (CCE used to have one), provide updates at Town Board meetings during the committee reports part of the meetings and have a presence on social media.

Beth Gorman mentioned that a priority for the CCE in 2025 is to raise its visibility including through social media, acquisition of an email address and presence at Town Board meetings.

Julie Ruben then discussed the status of the food scraps program and summarized a meeting she and Allison Hague had with Supervisor Annabi that morning. There is no money in the Town budget for the program and they will explore working with the library to apply for and sponsor the DEC grant needed to fund the project during the next round of grants. The next steps are still to be determined. Sustainable Putnam is advising and the CCE is supporting the program.

The CCE then continued discussing the OSI and language for a town resolution in support of its development. An example resolution was provided to Supervisor Annabi and there was uncertainty about some of the language including the need to create a steering committee for the project. The CCE determined that a stand-alone steering committee is unnecessary and the CCE, or a CCE subcommittee, could drive the process.

Ms. Gorman told the CCE that Supervisor Annabi requested the CCE meet with the Town Board to discuss the OSI process.

The next steps for the CCE are to set up the meeting with the Town Board and verify the grant opportunities and schedule. The CCE will also provide language for a draft resolution to the Town Board approving the development of the OSI.

The next meeting will be on February 13, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Grace Methodist Church, 337 Peekskill Hollow Road.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Mike Usai, Secretary