



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

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2025 MEETING OF
THE PUTNAM VALLEY COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE
ENVIRONMENT

In Attendance: CCE members: Beth Gorman (Chair), Jeffrey Coren, Allison Hague, Julie Ruben (remote), Wendy Whetsel, Sherry Howard (Town Board Liaison), and Mike Usai

Members of the public: Greg Donohue, Jenie Fu, Christina Imrich, Patrick Hanrahan

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. The roll was called and is reported above.

The first order of business was to interview prospective candidates for the one open position on the CCE. Beth Gorman gave an overview of the CCE's mandate and some current projects and initiatives. CCE members then introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their backgrounds and reasons for being on the CCE. The committee interviewed three candidates where they gave their backgrounds, reason for wanting to join the CCE and what they would like to see accomplished. Resumes will be collected and distributed to the CCE for evaluation.

The discussion then turned to the CCE's goals and priorities for 2025, and environmental issues confronting Putnam Valley. Water quality was the first and perhaps top environmental issue discussed, including surface water, well water, and that much of Putnam Valley is in the City of Peekskill's water supply watershed. Lake health was also a top concern, and other issues were stormwater management, invasive species, plastic pollution, and land conservation.

The CCE discussed the need to continue engaging the schools, educating the public through outreach and educational programs, and begin working with advocacy groups and other commissions where our interests intersect. It was also agreed that the Commission should enhance its role as an advisory group to the Town and Planning Boards.

Allison Hague asked about the Climate Smart Community Committee and whether the Town was interested in continuing with it. Supervisor Annabi is interested in Climate Smart and has made moves to fill vacant positions on the Climate Smart Committee. Currently, the Chair, Vice Chair and member(s) positions are vacant. The status of the group is unknown. Julie Ruben gave an overview of Climate Smart, its metrics and incentive structure and mentioned that Putnam Valley has lost points for inactivity. It was also pointed out that Putnam Valley has an open \$5,000 grant for Climate Smart resources.

The CCE then had an extended discussion about finding resources, Climate Smart Community, and the Open Space Inventory (OSI) grant funding. The next step for the OSI is to meet with the Town Board to discuss a town resolution supporting the development of an OSI, the timing of

grants, and who will apply for and administer the grant(s). The CCE will meet with the Town Board at their March 12th working meeting.

Ted Warren, Public Policy Manager at the Hudson Highlands Land Trust, is convening a roundtable meeting with the local CCE/CACs to discuss issues and concerns and provide networking and collaboration opportunities. PV CCE will attend.

Beth Gordan asked for assistance in putting the agendas together for the CCE meetings and Julie Ruben offered to compile and send out the agenda.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Mike Usai, Secretary