



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

**MINUTES OF THE MARCH 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, Wendy Whetsel, Sherry Howard (Town Board Liaison), and Mike Usai

Members of the public: Greg Donohue, Michael Towle, Kelly Weill, Christie Kroll

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 two prospective candidates for the one open position on the CCE. CCE members introduced themselves. The candidates then introduced themselves and gave an overview of their experience and reasons for wanting to join the CCE. The candidates' resumes were distributed prior to the meeting for CCE member review.

Allison Hague then gave an update on her conversation with the PV High School's environmental club advisor about student interest in joining the CCE. Four students are interested in joining. The CCE has two open seats available for student members. The CCE discussed potential projects for the students, including education and the food scraps program. It was pointed out that the food scraps program is not yet ready for the students' assistance.

Wendy Whetsel then updated the CCE on discussions with a consultant to give a presentation on recycling. The CCE discussed logistical, and information needs to be resolved prior to moving forward, including time and venue, and how to reach the public and advertise the presentation. This led to a tangential discussion on the CCE's need to develop the capacity to reach large numbers of people through social media, email and traditional media (e.g., public access TV). Wendy will reach back out to the consultant to help resolve some of these questions.

The CCE discussed helping reconstitute the Climate Smart Community Task Force. Allison suggested reaching out to Sustainable Putnam and has contacts in the Town of Philipsburg, who has an active Climate Smart Community program, to advise the CCE. Beth Gorman suggested a meeting with Supervisor Annabi to discuss moving this forward. The CCE felt that was a good idea and Allison, Julie Ruben, Sherry Roth, and Mike Usai expressed interest in attending. Beth will follow-up.

The CCE will be meeting with the Town Board at their regular meeting on March 19 to resolve a few questions the board has about the Open Space Inventory (OSI) grant process. The questions are about a town board resolution required for the grant application supporting the development of an OSI, who will write and apply for the grant, and grant deadlines. Fifteen minutes has been

allotted to this discussion. Ted Warren from the Hudson Highlands Land Trust will join the CCE at the meeting.

Christie Kroll then gave an update on two pending projects before the town for review - Rabbinical Seminary cemetery, and Camp Combe. The cemetery proposal is before the Zoning Board seeking a structure setback variance and Camp Combe has a new proposal before the Planning Board that increases the project's scope.

Non-voting attendees were then asked to leave so the CCE could vote on a candidate to join the commission. The CCE discussed the two candidates and voted to have Kelly Weill join.

The next meeting will be on April 10, 2025 at 6:30pm at the Grace Methodist Church, 337 Peekskill Hollow Road.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Mike Usai, Secretary