



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

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2025, MEETING OF
THE PUTNAM VALLEY COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE
ENVIRONMENT

In Attendance: CCE members: Beth Gorman (Chair), Julie Ruben, Kelly Weill, Allison Hague, Wendy Whetzel, Jeff Coren, Sherri Howard, and Mike Usai

Members of the public: Mike Towle, Christie Kroll, Sam Lee

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

The meeting began with acknowledging and thanking Wendy Whetzel for her long career of public service to the Town of Putnam Valley as a Town Board member and later as a member of the CCE, which she resurrected after a period of dormancy. This will be Wendy's last CCE meeting as a member.

The CCE will have two vacancies in January and will be recruiting people who may be interested in joining to send resumes. Beth recommended that to distribute the Chair's workload a co-Chair position be created. The town code allows the CCE to have a co-Chair. Beth nominated Mike Towle to be co-Chair upon appointment to the CCE by the Town Board. Mike accepted and Beth will remain Chair.

The Secretary position will become vacant upon Mike Usai's retirement from the CCE. Kelly Weill volunteered to become Secretary and the CCE unanimously agreed.

Jeff Coren will remain on the CCE until a replacement is found for him, upon which he will step down.

The CCE then discussed priorities to pursue in 2026. Priorities discussed included:

- Mike Towle recommended the CCE adopt more formal procedures to set goals and priorities and implement projects. He recommended working groups be set up to manage projects and assess progress.
- Work to have the Natural Resources Inventory formally adopted by the Town Board
- Apply for the Hudson River Estuary Program grant to develop an Open Space Inventory for Putnam Valley.
- Develop content for a 'Welcome Packet' to distribute to new Putnam Valley residents that provide information on regulations (e.g., septic pump out regulations), environmental and other useful information.

- Improve relations with and have more engagement with the Planning Board.
- Work with the Town Board to revise the language in Section 144-10 (D) of the Town Code to give the CCE an affirmative obligation to review any wetland permit application before the Planning Board.
- Work to have ridgeline protection requirements placed back in zoning codes.
- The CCE discussed whether to bring Climate Smart Communities Program under the umbrella of the CCE and decided that bringing Climate Smart under the aegis of the CCE would be a 2026 goal.

The CCE moved to form the following working groups to pursue next year's goals:

- CCE Process and Procedures – Mike Towle to lead
- NRI Adoption Working Group – Mike Towle to lead
- OSI Working Group – Julie Ruben to lead

Beth will make an announcement at a Town Board meeting about the goals and vacancies, and Kelly will add them to the next CCE newsletter.

Allison announced that the Putnam County Local Solid Waste Management Plan is out for public comment. Comments are due 12/31/25 and she will compile comments from the CCE and draft a letter.

The January meeting will be announced on the Putnam Valley website.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Mike Usai, Secretary