

## **Climate Smart Task Force- Putnam Valley**

**February 12, 6:30pm**

Pancho's and Gringos Restaurant

Present: Allison Hague, Judy Allen, Abigail Arrunategui, Jean McGee, Mike Priano, Ralph Smith, Dave Spittal, Mike Towle

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.

The group introduced themselves, noting a variety of expertise in natural resource management, clean energy, and resilient infrastructure. Task force members also hold current or prior experience in local governance or are deeply involved in other community organizations.

### **Getting Acclimated with Climate Smart Communities (CSC)**

Allison gave an overview of the NYS Climate Smart Communities program and a vision for how it could assist the Town of Putnam Valley. In addition to supporting the implementation of sustainability projects, it provides action items to reduce energy consumption, protect waterways, reduce waste, and many more. Allison showed the group the Climate Action Checklist and the wide range of potential. The first official action as a task force was asking the Town Board to pass a resolution to officially appoint the following members to the task force.

Allison Hague, CSC Coordinator, Putnam Valley Environmental Commission

CJ Brooks- Town Board Liaison

Ina Choist, Roaring Brook Lake Preservation Committee

Jean McGee, Putnam Valley Fire Department

Mike Priano, prior PV Wetlands Inspector

Christian Russo, Town Board

Ralph Smith, Prior Putnam Valley CSC Coordinator

Dave Spittal, Putnam Valley Central School District

Mike Towle, Putnam Valley Environmental Commission

Abby Arrunategui, Community Member

### **Scheduling meetings**

The CSC decided to meet once per month on a rotating schedule to allow for all members to participate. They agreed to a combination of in person and remote meetings to further accommodate the task force members.

### **Next Steps**

The group discussed potential high-impact actions for the town, as well as division into Climate Smart working groups. These groups will initially assess which actions are obtainable within the CSC framework and. The working groups will be 1) Organic waste management 2) Watershed protections and water quality and 3) Government Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

Additionally, the CSC will support a town-wide Earth Week celebration from April 15-26. The events will include programming for all ages, with focuses on proper recycling practices for inorganic and organic waste, clean energy and energy affordability, water testing of Lake Oscawana, and a community cleanup in Lake Peekskill. This series of events will serve as both community-building and educational opportunities for Putnam Valley residents.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Allison Hague, CSC Coordinator