



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

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 19, 2026, MEETING OF  
THE PUTNAM VALLEY COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE  
ENVIRONMENT

In Attendance: CCE members: Beth Gorman (Chair), Mike Towle, Allison Hague, Jeff Coren, Sherri Howard, and Kelly Weill

Members of the public: Christie Kroll, Greg Donohue, Jenie Fu, and Francoise Brodsky

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

The meeting began with a vote to appoint Mike Towle as a member of the CCE. The vote was unanimously approved.

The CCE has one remaining vacancy. Members discussed recruiting potential applicants.

Mike led a discussion on formalizing CCE policies and procedures, including:

- Standardizing email practices to improve transparency, as well as clarify distinctions between personal and town emails. Members discussed approaching Supervisor Jolicoeur about obtaining an official town email address;
- The best dates on which to host recurring CCE meetings. Members considered hosting meetings on the first or third Monday of each month. Potential conflicts for those dates included recurring meetings for the Lake Oscawana Management Advisory Committee and the Parks and Recreation Department. Members agreed to schedule meetings on the second Monday of each month, and to enquire about other Town Hall availability dates;

Allison Hague discussed plans to deliver community updates on behalf of the CCE and the Climate Smart Task Force at Town Board meetings.

Among the CCE's 2026 priorities is the formal adoption of the CCE's Natural Resources Inventory by the Town Board. Mike circulated a draft memorandum to the Town Board regarding NRI adoption. The memorandum offered background on the NRI's current status as formally accepted by the Town, and recommended the Town adopt the NRI as an official Town reference document. The memorandum highlighted the NRI's value in improving consistency across Town staff and departments, and clarified that the NRI would not create new regulations or mandate new outcomes in land-use decisions.

Beth Gorman and Mike discussed renewing efforts to develop an Open Space Inventory for

Putnam Valley. Christie Kroll described methods by which the CCE might categorize parcels and identify open spaces.

Allison Hague is the new chair of the Climate Smart Task Force. She discussed her priorities for Climate Smart, including:

- Obtaining bronze level certification through New York's Climate Smart Communities program. A bronze level certification would qualify Putnam Valley for state grants and resources;
- Differentiating Climate Smart's responsibilities from those of the broader CCE.

Greg Donohue raised concerns about a case of alleged septic law violations in Lake Peekskill. Beth described the Town's interventions in the ongoing case. The CCE discussed developing more formalized lines of communication with the appropriate Town and County agencies in cases of suspected environmental violations.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Kelly Weill, Secretary