



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

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 9, 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, Sherry Howard, Julie Ruben, and Kelly Weill

Members of the public: Christie Kroll, Francoise Brodsky, and Sarah Bartlett

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

The meeting began with a discussion of the CCE's Natural Resources Inventory. The NRI has been accepted by the Town Board but has yet to be formally adopted. Members discussed steps toward adoption, including:

- Ensuring that NRI documents remain up to date. Sherry detailed a conversation with the Town Planner indicating that the current NRI documents remain accurate. Beth suggested adopting the NRI as written, allowing for future updates if necessary.
- Mike set an action item to locate Town Board commentary on the accepted version of the NRI.
- Julie and Mike discussed the NRI's potential to evolve with the town's environmental needs, including potential future updates to flood maps.
- Beth set an action item to discuss the NRI at the community updates section of upcoming Town Board meetings.
- Allison and Julie noted that Putnam Valley's NRI, as currently accepted, has served as a model for other towns' NRIs.

Allison distributed a checklist of certification actions for New York State's Climate Smart program. Completion of certain checklist items would qualify Putnam Valley for state grants.

Members discussed methods of increasing communication and coordination between the town's sustainability-focused commissions and committees, including the CCE, Climate Smart, and the town's lake committees. Allison suggested a unified website for these organizations.

Allison led a discussion on Putnam Valley's forthcoming Earth Week initiative. The CCE discussed educational programming it might oversee, including a potential webinar on invasive species removal and an educational hike in the Granite Mountain Preserve.

Beth updated the CCE on progress toward conducting an Open Space Inventory. Members

discussed meeting with stakeholders including Supervisor Jolicoeur to provide an overview of the OSI and its aims. The CCE stated its intent to apply for a grant from the Hudson River Estuary Management Program. Beth set the following action items:

- Clarify grant application process with the Town
- Organize task forces that can begin conducting the OSI when approved
- Make a presentation for the Town Board on the OSI application process

The CCE revisited its January discussion of alleged septic law violations in Lake Peekskill. Beth described the Town's response as well as additional interventions from the State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Kelly Weill, Secretary