



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

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 21, 2026, MEETING OF
THE PUTNAM VALLEY COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF THE ENVIRONMENT

In Attendance: CCE members: Beth Gorman (Chair), Mike Towle, Jeff Coren, Sherry Howard, Julie Ruben, and Kelly Weill

Members of the public: Eric Stone, Ken Sills, Peter Porpiglia, Jenie Fu

The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm. The roll was called and is reported above.

Peter Porpiglia was introduced as a potential candidate for the CCE's open voting member position.

Beth and Mike gave an update on the Natural Resources Inventory. The NRI has been accepted by the Town, but not formally adopted. Sherry said NRI adoption is not yet on the Town Board agenda. The group discussed ways to advance the NRI toward adoption, including giving a presentation at a Town Board meeting. Julie suggested locating the town's large-format NRI maps and incorporating them as a visual aid during a presentation. Mike said he had spoken with Supervisor Jolicoeur about making NRI documents available online in GIS format.

Julie updated the group on the status of the Open Space Inventory. The CCE intends to fund its OSI with a grant from the Hudson River Estuary Program. Julie said this year's grant application period has not been announced, but that it is likely to be announced in fall. Kelly followed up on last month's discussion of an OSI being conducted in the City of Peekskill's watershed, of which Putnam Valley is a part. Julie noted that the Peekskill watershed OSI was unlikely to overlap significantly with a Putnam Valley OSI. The CCE discussed possible preparations it could undertake ahead of the grant application. Beth suggested forming an OSI working group. Julie suggested asking the Town for a resolution in support of an OSI in advance of the grant application process.

Next, Julie gave overviews of three large projects expected to come before the Planning Board: construction projects at the Rabbinical Seminary of America, Citywide Automotive, and YMCA Camp Combe.

Mike gave a report on ongoing efforts by the Climate Smart Task Force. Climate Smart is currently working on collecting energy data on Town buildings for an energy audit, and

working on obtaining a grant for community composting. Climate Smart members recently visited the nearby Cortlandt composting facility, which could process compost from Putnam Valley. Members discussed barriers to collecting yard waste for compost, chiefly invasive species that could spread if not properly contained.

Next on the agenda was Putnam Valley's membership in the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions. Julie noted that Putnam Valley's NYSACC membership fee (\$75) was coming due. Beth proposed forming a CCE budget committee to streamline and keep records of expenses.

Next the group discussed the May 17 Community Day at Tompkins Corners Cultural Center. Kelly said she would update the CCE's printed materials to be distributed at the CCE table, and look into obtaining a banner for the tent. The group brainstormed outreach at the Community Day, including children's activities. Eric said he would put together a site-specific nature scavenger hunt. Kelly suggested a seed-planting activity for children with compostable cups.

Beth suggested formalizing the process of new member elections. The CCE discussed establishing an official application process and timeline by which new members are appointed. CCE members agreed to consider the voting process and bring suggestions to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Action Items:

Mike: Reach out with Allison to schedule a presentation for Supervisor Jolicoeur on NRI adoption.

Julie: Invoice Town for Putnam Valley's \$75 NYSACC membership fee.

Kelly: Contact Allison Barone about securing a table for the CCE at Community Day.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Weill, Secretary