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

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 20, 2026, MEETING OF
THE PUTNAM VALLEY COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION
OF THE ENVIRONMENT

**In Attendance:** CCE members: Beth Gorman (Chair), Allison Hague, Julie Ruben, Eric Stone, and Kelly Weill

Members of the public: Sarah Bartlett, Jenie Fu, Christie Kroll, and Mike Towle

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

The CCE discussed progress toward the town's formal adoption of the Natural Resources Inventory:

- Beth spoke to Supervisor Alison Jolicoeur on Oct. 20. She supports the adoption of the NRI and asked whether the CCE needed to make any updates to the document. If so, the CCE should submit a written declaration to the Town Board outlining any necessary changes.
- Mike said he believes the current NRI is a valid, living document. He has updated some data layers, constituting small changes.
- Jenie and Mike discussed formalizing a schedule for NRI updates.
- Beth clarified the CCE's opinion that the current NRI is valid and does not require alteration ahead of adoption, but that future updates will be necessary to reflect changes to Putnam Valley's environment.
- Mike committed to sending the Board a memo detailing proposed changes and schedules for future updates.

The group discussed steps toward conducting an Open Space Inventory:

- Allison summarized the application requirements for a recently announced grant from the Hudson River Estuary Program. The CCE intends to apply for this grant. Grant applications are due on December 17 at 3pm.
- Julie said the CCE has identified two potential contractors to work on the OSI: Hudsonia and Jim Nordgren.
- The CCE discussed the formal process for contractor selection. The group decided to request proposals from both contractors. Allison suggested asking the contractors to also include estimates for related projects like resiliency planning

that could also receive HREP grant funding.
- Allison recommended securing contractor proposals ahead of the November 4 Town Board working session. Beth said she would work with Sherry Howard to add the contractor proposals to the working session agenda.

The CCE recapped recent community outreach efforts at Town Day and the Putnam Valley Historical Society semiquincentennial celebration:

- Eric led a clay pottery activity for children at the Historical Society event. The Town Board has received Eric's resume.
- The CCE's OSI survey at Town Day received limited responses, but indicated community support for an OSI.
- The CCE will promote the OSI survey on its social media and newsletter lists, with a goal of collecting 50 responses.
- The CCE discussed future events aimed at education and community engagement around the OSI. Allison suggested waiting to host events until after the HREP grant is awarded. Kelly said she would reach out to the library to discuss installing the CCE's interactive map from Town Day.

The CCE discussed ongoing recruitment efforts:

- The CCE has one open voting member seat.
- The CCE is also seeking a new chair to replace Beth when her term ends in December.
- Kelly will put out a call for new applicants on social media. Mike is interested in returning to his voting role, but needs to conclude a stormwater management contract with the town.

The CCE reviewed recent updates from the Planning and Zoning Boards:

- A forest management plan proposed by the Parks and Recreation Department has been tabled.
- A large parcel on Dennytown Road is being planned for subdivision. The Planning Board is currently reviewing the project's tree-cutting and fill requirements.

The CCE and Climate Smart are part of an initiative to recycle pumpkins and jack-o-lanterns after Halloween, with a goal of recycling at least 2,000 pounds of pumpkins. The CCE agreed to further publicize the initiative, and to reach out to local businesses that might be planning to dispose of pumpkins after Halloween.

**Action Items:**
- Beth: check with Town Board for updates on Dennytown Road development
- Kelly: promote pumpkin recycling and new member recruitment on social media; reach out to library about sharing interactive map from Town Day

- Mike: write NRI adoption memo for Town Board

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Weill, Secretary