

DANBY NEWS

PROUD HISTORY OF WOMEN IN THE DANBY FIRE DISTRICT

Submitted by Katherine Anderson, Fire Commissioner

ALTHOUGH IT STILL EXISTS TO THIS DAY, The Ladies Auxiliary of the Fireman's Association of New York, established in the 1930s, has given way in many counties across New York State to full membership for women in fire departments, including here in Danby.

Today, there are quite a few women who are active members of the Danby and West Danby Fire Departments, serving ably at every level. Dee Bowles, currently the Treasurer for the Danby Fire District, was our first female Assistant Fire Chief, followed by JoAnne Oliver. Christel Truttman was the first Lieutenant for West Danby and Samantha VanEtten the first Assistant Chief. In addition, there have been two female Fire Commissioners, including yours truly.

Long before these advances, women were eager to be involved in the Fire Department. As a result, a Danby Fireman's Ladies Auxiliary was founded on October 9, 1956 by sixteen area women, "...being the wives and mothers and daughters of the Danby Fire Department." These early pioneers participated in parades, fundraisers and other volunteer activities to support the department and community.

—continued on page 7 ➔



BACK TO NORMAL!

West Danby Annual Picnic Date Set

Submitted by Peter Fraissinet

It's been a lonely year-and-a-half for most of us, without potlucks, breakfasts, dances, music events, what have you. Well, it's time to rectify that and get together again at the West Danby Annual Picnic, our favorite event that (usually!) happens every summer.

On Saturday, August 28, 4:30pm, in the usual beautiful spot in McLaughlin's pavilion (at the corner of Brown and Short Roads) in West Danby. Rain or shine (there is shelter). All are welcome, and bring a friend!

Bring something great to share, as well as a chair and your own place setting, if you can. Tod S. tells us he'll be bringing smoked pork as his contribution, which he'll spend all day slow-cooking to perfection in the smoker he built. Cold drinks will be on hand too.

At this writing it's still in the works, but we hope to have a cadre of string band players gather to provide even more rural ambience.

N.B. While we hope the worst is behind us and most of us have been vaccinated, we must follow state and federal guidelines (for outdoor gatherings) at the time of the event. ❁

This Month Inside the Danby News:

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- Calendar ⑧

DANBY SENIORS!

Submitted by Margie VanDeMark

THE DANBY SENIORS PLAN to get together for the first time in a long time for a Chicken BBQ at the American Legion Pavilion on August 5, Noon (signups were due by July 27).

Save the date of Thursday, December 2 for a holiday luncheon at LaTourelle!

We'll resume our monthly dish to share meetings in 2022. ❁

August 2021

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Text submissions:
 Send text in the body of an unencoded, plain-text Email message (**not** as an attachment); or mail typewritten copy, double-spaced on white paper. Short handwritten submissions accepted; please write legibly.

Graphics: JPEG preferred for photos, GIF for line graphics. PNG also works. Check with editor before sending hardcopy graphics.

Deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication date. Materials may be accepted later if time allows. Submissions should generally not exceed 250-350 words (one column). We cannot print political material or letters of opinion.

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DANBY NEWS NOTES

Submitted by Ted Crane

Submission Guidelines: Before submitting an item for the Danby News, please have a look at the *Submission Guidelines*. You can request them by Email from the editor at [danbynews@tedcrane.com] or find them at [danbynyn.org/DanbyNews]. If you're thinking of sending something for publication in the Danby News, there's two documents to read: the *Guidelines* and the *Submission Guide-*

lines at the same web location. You'll learn what is, and isn't acceptable material for publication. If it's acceptable, we'll make an effort to include it; generally, we print everything we receive! You'll find hints about how to prepare a submission. Following these guidelines makes the editing and layout easier. A terse version of these guidelines is in the left-hand column of this page. ☘

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL PARK MEETING

Submitted by Michelle Lenhart



Arch and Esther Dotson Park

SOME EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING in Danby's backyard! You can get the full scoop during the Danby Community Park Association annual meeting on Wednesday, September 8, 7pm.

If you'd like to learn about the progress and plans for the Dotson Park natural playground, disc golf course, mound makeover, event spaces, board elections, and more, join us by the pavilion. All Danby residents are invited. We hope to see you there! ❀

ANOTHER SAVE THE DATE:

Bald Hill Road Picnic

John Rowley, organizer of the annual Bald Hill Road Picnic *and pie baking contest* has spoken: September 11, 4-6pm, at Jennings Pond! ❀



Four Generations: Florence Geuther (formerly of East Miller Road...now living in Dover, NH) during a recent visit by her daughter, grand daughter and great grand daughter. Florence and her great grand daughter were both born on the same date...94 years apart.

TRIPS TO THE MOON

Submitted by Henry Fitzgerald

EVER WONDER HOW FAR YOU COULD TRAVEL on the energy used in one year to cremate people in the United States? Probably not, but it's surprising.

To gain some perspective on how far that could be we'll need to think big. So rather than just speaking of miles or kilometers, let's think in terms of trips to the moon...and back. And for something that's easy to relate to, suppose we have a vehicle that gets 30 mpg. Well, after crunching the numbers and triple checking the work, the answer is--hold on to your hats--over 1,979 round trips to the moon!

As they say, your mileage may vary. The quantity of energy used for a cremation can range between 12 and 50 therms. I'm using 25 therms as a modest average in this evaluation.

The 25 therms of energy used for one cremation corresponds to the oomph contained in about 20 gallons of gasoline. The 1,563,164 cremations in the U.S. during 2019 were equivalent to about 31,515,403 gallons of gasoline. That's a whole lot of fuel to propel your car! At 30 miles per gallon, you'd be way beyond its warranty after traveling 945,462,097 miles.

With the moon a mere 238,855 miles away, that's enough for well over 5 round trips...every single day...for an entire year.

Want to save some fuel? Tompkins County is home to two natural burial grounds, Greensprings Natural Cemetery Preserve in Newfield and Willow Glen Cemetery in Dryden. In addition to conserving energy resources, going that route saves on the tons of concrete used in burial vaults and the fancy materials for the caskets, not to mention the related expenses. Simple, environmentally-friendly caskets or burial shrouds make for a dignified natural return to the earth. Rick Lazarus here in Danby could build you a simple casket if you're interested. What about elsewhere? Information on the growing number of nature-friendly options available nationwide can be found on the Green Burial Council's website, [greenburialcouncil.org].

A return to natural burial practices can be a noble gift to the world we leave behind. Cremations consume an incredible amount of energy. I'd rather return to Planet Earth just once. ❀

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

Submitted by Joel Gagnon

BOARDS NOW MEETING IN PERSON

July saw the end of Zoom-only meetings for the Town's decision-making bodies (Town Board, Planning Board, and Board of Zoning Appeals). With the Governor ending the emergency declaration that had suspended the Open Meetings Law, each of those groups had to return to meeting in person. We are, however, committed to continuing access by videoconference for those who would like to attend that way. The first such meeting was on July 12. I can't say that it went without a hitch; we can make it work and will do so. The conduct of the meeting will have to be more formal since the viewing audience cannot hear those in Danby's Town Hall unless they are using a microphone. Accordingly, those physically present will have to address the Boards using a microphone, which will be made available. It will actually be easier to be recognized and heard if you are participating from a remote location on your phone or computer! As before, the links to connect to these and all the other meetings where videoconferencing is either the supplement to in-person (hybrid meetings) or the virtual-space venue will be on the Town web site calendar. The calendar will indicate whether the meeting is hybrid, videoconference, or just in-person. The Town Board is still being very cautious about the in-person meetings. Masks are still required, whether vaccinated or not.

Waivers Granted

Ray Van De Bogart and Alice Napierski both applied for a waiver from the moratorium on subdivisions in the low-density zone, which is scheduled to end at year's end. Public hearings were held for both applications on July 12. The Board, in subsequent consideration, came to the conclusion that both requests satisfied the conditions for granting the waivers and both were approved. Should you want to take a close look, the applications and the resolutions associated with them are linked with the agenda for the July 12 meeting. Granting the waiver does not approve the subdivisions. The applicants are now free to pursue their applications with the Planning Board without waiting until the end of the year to do so.

Fake Fire at the Town Hall

The building will be full of smoke, but there will not be a real fire. The Danby Fire Departments requested use of Danby's Town Hall for fire training and the Town Board readily agreed. Having our volunteer firefighters familiar with the building, both inside and out, is a big advan-

tage to the Town in the event of a real fire. The training benefits the volunteers as well, a classic win-win. The departments have already practiced on the Highway Department building.

Other Emergency Preparation

Training and Mitigation of Hazards are a big part of Emergency Preparedness. In the last year, we updated our pandemic planning. We are revising those plans in light of our experience and to broaden them and make them more robust in dealing with future threats. There is also a county-level emergency preparedness plan under revision, with Steve Cortright, Danby's Code Enforcement Officer (and a Fire Department member) serving as Danby's representative in that effort. Our Highway Department has plans in place for storm emergencies, and we will look to harden our roads and bridges to make them more resilient. On a human level, an ongoing project led by Matt Ulinski, Town Board Member and Deputy Supervisor, is evaluating risks of workplace violence and developing a plan for mitigating the risks and responding to actual instances. That plan, developed with the help of consultant Gina Lord, is nearing completion and will soon be advanced to the Town Board for review and adoption.

Library Free to Expand Hours

The library volunteers expressed a wish to expand the hours when the library will be open for browsing. In years past, the library had been open whenever the Town Hall was open. It was the general feeling of everyone in Town Hall that the library should not be open without having library personnel around to staff it. The Board decision was to permit the library to be open as desired, but only when staffed. Masks required for patrons, as they currently are for everyone using Danby's Town Hall (and for unvaccinated visitors to the Court in the building).

Budget Process Initiated

Seems like we just closed the books on last year, but it is time to begin the budget process for 2022. The first step in that process was set to begin with a meeting on July 19 focused on capital improvement planning. We are creating a wish list of projects so we can prioritize them and budget with a longer view as the context for each year. Graduating from a wish list to a schedule of projects is the next stage. Planning goes beyond improvements to our physical plant, though, and how to better do the work of government is also part of the planning. I will share the highlights as they develop.

—continued on next page ➔

➤ *Supervisor, continued from previous page*

Re-zoning Proposal Floated For Public And Town Board Review

A primary objective of the subdivision moratorium was to adopt a plan for re-zoning the Town. At a minimum, this would involve a plan for the areas outside of the hamlets, but ideally it would include the entire Town--and all by the end of the year. We are on track to accomplish that objective. David West, the Town Planner, was to advance to the Town Board a rezoning proposal at the July 19 "zoning update" meeting, the product of well over a year of meetings by the working groups of the Planning Group. Whether the plan goes far enough toward retaining the Town's much-valued rural character--or too far--will be the focus of much comment, no doubt. The most useful comments will be more specific, pointing out areas of weakness and suggesting changes that might make it better. I hope you will be curious enough to check it out. The entire month of August is devoted to getting feedback, with time enough left to revise if it is wanted. The written proposal will be on the Town's web site (I suggest accessing it via the calendar link for the July 19 meeting). The meeting was to be recorded and the recording should also be viewable as a YouTube video in the list of planning videos. A couple of highlights:

- The low density zone, which currently includes almost all of the Town outside of the hamlets, would be divided into 4 new zones, with additional overlay and "floating" zones.
- Within limits, development rights can be bought and sold to make it easier to protect larger parcels in an undeveloped form while facilitating clustering of the development that does occur.
- The hamlets are also proposed to be divided into core zones and neighborhood development zones.

That is just a taste. Check it out!

Enjoy summer while it is still here. We will soon enough be complaining about the cold.

As always, please feel free to contact me, [supervisor@townofdanbyny.org] or 607.227.4440. About any of these matters or anything else on your mind. ❁

Have you ever noticed that there are only two ways for spacemen (and spacewomen) in science fiction movies to dress? Faultlessly uniformed with perfectly ironed creases...or in ragged/torn undershirts! ❁ *-editor*

CAC UPDATE

Submitted by Margaret Corbit, CAC

Our July meeting was very productive and very long. George Adams and the other members of the Timber Harvest Committee (Don Shauffer and

Jonathan Zisk)

handed over a

nearly final ver-

sion of the draft

of the Town of

Danby Timber

Harvest Law. Af-

ter responding to

questions from the

Council and making

minor revisions to the

draft. CAC unanimously

voted to recommend forwarding

the draft Law to the Town Board for re- view during

its July 21 meeting. Next steps include final review by

Code Enforcement and the Highway Department and

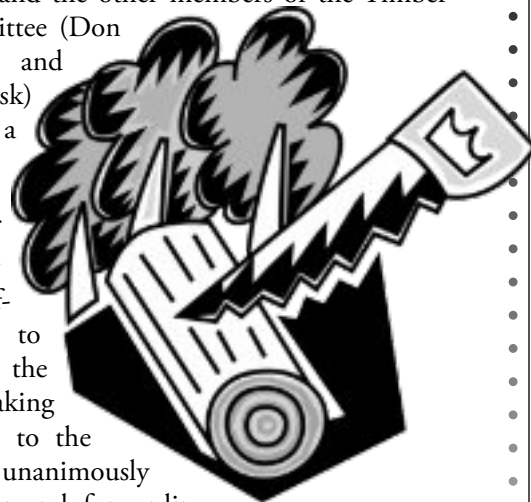
revision by the Town Lawyer. Before the draft can be

turned into law there will be a public hearing.

The successful process of negotiating the easement for the Deputron Hollow property has sparked a great deal of discussion among the Council members about how to improve the Conservation Easement Template, available in the Documents category of the CAC web page. By the end of the meeting, we had accomplished a thorough review of the Template and Town Supervisor Joel Gagnon also hopes to hand it over to the Town Board for the July 21 meeting. While the template itself might seem like a daunting legal document, you should consider it just a template. There are helpful links on our web page. Once you have had a look at these documents, it's probably best to contact one of the members to begin your discussion.

We would like to remind everyone that several recorded informational presentations are available at the CAC web page, as well as links to the meeting notes and agendas of our meetings.

The CAC meets on the second Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be on August 10, 7pm. Check the Town of Danby web site to find out whether the meeting will be held via Zoom or in the Town Hall. ❁



WHY DANBY'S YOUTH PROGRAMS ARE IMPORTANT

Submitted by Ted Crane

AUTHOR CAROL O'CONNELL WROTE, more or less, that, *Of all the department stores in the world, only Bloomingdale's had parishioners. It was a psychedelic womb, with mazes of color and light, a vast array of goods on floor after floor, enough to shut down the neural synapses of the novice shopper. There were no less than five restaurants.*

What's that got to do with Danby's Youth? Growing up in New York City, with weekly visits to Bloomingdale's, (where you were treated like royalty, even if you weren't buying, and home of the second-best toy department in the world), to F.A.O. Schwartz (number one, where kids off the street were welcome to play with the merchandise all day), to the Museum of Natural History (dinosaurs, gems and minerals, space exploration, oil rigs, animals of the world, the big whales, butterflies, and Teddy Roosevelt), to the Metropolitan Museum of Art (learn about both additive and subtractive color, medieval armor, Egyptian temples and mummies, and—oh yes—paintings and sculpture).

Bloomingdales offered expensive coffee and pastries, but youth tended to enjoy the dozens of nearby coffee shops with inexpensive burgers-and-fries. The Museum of Natural History had lousy food but eating it between walls covered with dinosaurs made it seem really, really exotic. And then there were thousands of ethnic eateries: Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Mexican, Czech, German, French, Greek, Italian, seafood, steaks, and even...vegetables.

The City, itself. The people, the subways, the buses, the buildings, the bridges, the theaters, the parks, the zoos, the beaches, and the rivers and the docks.

Danby has Jennings Pond. There's lots of greenery around town. If the Gathery served food, it might be gourmet quality. Ithaca is pretty impressive. For a city of its size, it offers a disproportionately large helping of stimuli for a growing youth.

Little around here can beat the interaction and experiences offered by Danby's Youth Programs: cooking, outdoor programs to learn about moths, wild foods, and fishing, art, trips to museums, parks, and lakes, games, theater, Claymation, and more. All this is offered for free. The programs are taking a pause right now but, when they return, we should support them and encourage all our youth to participate! See [danbycc.org/YouthPrograms]. ❁

FIRE DISTRICT SEEKING TREASURER

Submitted by Sharon Gaden, District Secretary

THE DANBY FIRE DISTRICT IS IN NEED of a new treasurer as a result of the resignation of treasurer Deanna Bowles. Deanna joined the Danby Volunteer Fire Company in February 1987. Deanna trained and became an EMT, an Advanced EMT, exterior firefighter and a qualified driver on the fire apparatus.



In 1990, Deanna became the Fire Company's first female Assistant Chief. In August 2000, Deanna became the Fire District secretary and, in 2011, Deanna broadened her workload to include not only secretary but treasurer as well. In 2016 Deanna chose to be only the District Treasurer and has reached an impressive "gold star" recognition level by her peers.

The fire district treasurer is appointed by the Board of Fire Commissioners for a one year term ending on December 31 each year. It is a paid position. The treasurer is the fiscal officer of the Fire District and receives and has custody of all district funds. The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining all financial records, bank accounts, financial reports of the district and paying all district bills.

Candidates should:

- Be a resident of the Town of Danby
- Possess a working knowledge of QuickBooks, Word and Excel
- Experience in Governmental accounting desirable but not necessary
- Demonstrate comprehensive oral and written communication skills
- Have the ability to manage multiple priorities deadlines
- Be bondable

Interested candidates for the Treasurer position should submit a cover letter and resume to: Danby Fire District, Attention: Secretary, 1780 Danby Road, Ithaca, New York 14850, by August 12, 2021. ❁

Street Fair In Danby

ON THE THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH, 4-7pm, the Dotson Community Park Association and the Danby Community Council are sponsoring the Summer Special Series organized by Elana Maragni.

Everyone is invited, to Dotson Park—across from Danby's Town Hall—where you'll be greeted by your neighbors and old friends. Many local artisans, craftspeople, individuals with local products, produce and baked goods will be there. Cornell Cooperative Extension was there in July with information and free energy-saving lightbulbs. There is live music, so bring a chair or a blanket. Come see all the wonderful things that Danby folks do. Fabrics, soaps, jewelry, baked goods, artwork, flowers, herbals, crocheted critters, and more.

This month's event is set for Friday, August 20, 4-7pm, with a rain date of Friday, August 27. ❀

SENIOR STRENGTH CLASS

Submitted by Joanne Church

THE SENIOR STRENGTH CLASS is resuming in-person meetings! It gets together in the Danby Community Church every Monday and Thursday, 9-10am, and welcomes everyone who might be interested. If you just want to know what's involved, stop by...we're a friendly group! ❀

➤ *Women in Fire, continued from front page*

Danby Fire Chief John Gaden recalls that the Auxiliary came to an end in the 1970s and was re-born as a, "social membership." Both changing times and insurance liability issues had a hand in the ultimate demise of the Ladies Auxiliary. After 2002, those who were not full members of either company, regardless of gender, became known as, "Support Members."



We salute all of these women, of every era, for their volunteerism. ❀

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Submitted by Cindy Parlett

THE DANBY COMMUNITY LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS would like to welcome you back for in-person browsing! Our hours are Tuesdays, 1-3pm, and Thursdays and Saturdays, 10am-Noon. On-line ordering and contact-free pickup are still available, with instructions on the Library page of the Town web site [townofdanbyny.org].

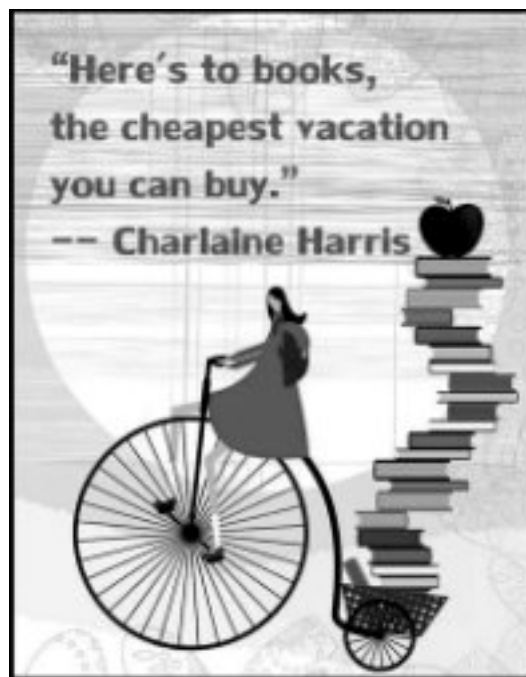
Be on the lookout for our "open" flag hanging by the front door of Town Hall. This will be displayed whenever we are open. Access is through the right-hand front door. A fairly recent addition to our holdings are puzzles. We also have a large collection of DVDs and are always adding new books.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the DCL. If any questions, feel free to contact us at 607.277.4200 or [library@townofdanbyny.org].

New Adult Fiction:

- *The Hidden Target* by Helen MacInnes
- *Winter and Night* by SJ Rozan
- *The Oysterville Sewing Circle* by Susan Wiggs
- *Her Last Flight* by Beatriz Williams
- *Sunset Beach* by Mary Kay Andrews

❀



Aug 2021

DANBY NEWS: EVENT CALENDAR

- Aug 4 • Wed**
 5:30pm 📺 Zoom • **WD Water Board Meeting**
 7pm 📺 Dotson Park • **DCPA Meeting** (rain: Zoom)
- Aug 5 • Thu**
 Noon 📺 American Legion Post • **Seniors BBQ**
 7pm 📺 Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
- Aug 7 • Sat**
 9am 📺 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
- Aug 9 • Mon**
 7pm 📺 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
 7pm 📺 DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
 7pm 📺 WDFD Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
- Aug 10 • Tue**
 7pm 📺 DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
 7pm 📺 Town Hall • **Conservation Advisory Council Mtg**
- Aug 16 • Mon**
 7pm 📺 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting: Moratorium**
- Aug 17 • Tue**
 7pm 📺 Town Hall • **Planning Board Mtg**
- Aug 18 • Wed**
 7pm 📺 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
- Aug 19 • Thu**
 4pm 📺 Community Church • **Danby Food Pantry**
- Aug 20 • Fri**
 4-7pm 📺 Dotson Park • **Something Special** (rain: 8/27)
- Aug 24 • Tue**
 7pm 📺 DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**

- Aug 28 • Sat**
 4:30pm 📺 McLaughlin Pavilion • **West Danby Picnic**

- Sep 2 • Thu**
 7pm 📺 Zoom • **Danby Community Council Mtg**
- Sep 4 • Sat**
 9am 📺 Town Hall • **Library Volunteers Meeting**
- Sep 8 • Wed**
 7pm 📺 Dotson Park • **DCPA Annual Meeting**
- Sep 13 • Mon**
 7pm 📺 Town Hall • **Town Board Meeting**
 7pm 📺 DVFC Station • **Fire Dep't Meeting**
 7pm 📺 West Danby Fire Station • **WD Fire Dep't Mtg**
- Sep 14 • Tue**
 7pm 📺 DVFC Station/YouTube • **Fire District Meeting**
 7pm 📺 Town Hall • **Conservation Advisory Council Mtg**

Ongoing Events

- Seniors Strength Class** 📺 Danby Community Church
 Mondays and Thursdays, 9-10am
 Contact [jmchurch@twcny.rr.com] for info
- Tai Chi Classes** 📺 Danby Community Church
 Mondays and Wednesdays, 11am.
- Danby Community Library** 📺 Town Hall
 Tuesday, 1-3pm; Thursday & Saturday, 10am-Noon
 Curbside pickup available; can return in drop box.
- Danby Food Pantry** 📺 Danby Community Church
 3rd Thursday, 4-6pm
- Food Scrap Recycling** 📺 Town Hall 🔄
 Saturdays, 9am-Noon
- AA Meeting** 📺 Danby Community Church
 Wednesdays, 7pm
- Danby Quilters Group** ☎ 607.273.2950, Call for Info

Where Things Happen

- 📺 **Danby Town Hall** • 1830 Danby Road
- 📺 **DVFC Station** • 1780 Danby Road
- 📺 **WDFD Station** • 47 Sylvan Drive, off Rt.34/96
- 📺 **Danby Community Church** • 1859 Danby Road
- 📺 **American Legion Post 221** • 1231 Danby Road

Meeting	Date	Zoom MtgID	Passcode
Planning Cmtes	Thu/Fri	970 8279 1227	???
Town Board	August 9	980 8515 9868	754633
CAC	August 10	972 1566 0090	423584
Planning Board	August 17	958 0817 5336	245871
Town Board	August 18	971 0723 2988	535713
Zoning Appeals	None	986 3534 5196	281804
To join a meeting by telephone, call 646.876.9923			