

Danby Conservation Advisory Council
2/28/11 Minutes

Present: Sue Beeners, Ithaca College students (Jan Bidwell, Rachel Lowy), Mary Ann Barr, Jake Brenner, Joel Gagnon, Tom Gavin, Dan Klein, Julie Kulik, Ted Crane

Minutes could not be approved, because Julie forgot to bring copies – will be done next month.

Sue Beeners – handouts – “Proposed Danby Critical Environmental Areas – Progress Report – dated 2/15/11, “Notes-Mapping – SB 2/28/11
Will be meeting with Karen E. to work on maps later this week. She will be making some thematic maps, and upgrading software on Sue’s computer, and putting the software on a laptop. Additional funding for this project will be needed.

Ben: reported on other work the CEA committee is doing, watershed protection.

Brainstormed on Developing our Inventory and Map: we need (1) descriptive information. (2) Best or priority uses (3) how to prioritize

(1) Characterizing open space in Danby

- ⊕ Topography – slope, aspect, elevation
- ⊕ Landcover/vegetation, soils
- ⊕ Corridors/ unfragmented habitat
- ⊕ View sheds, landscape character
- ⊕ Ag suitability (eg drainage, etc..)
- ⊕ Hydrology: wetlands, streams, aquifers, vernal pools
- ⊕ Forest types
- ⊕ Biological/habitat types – locally rare spp, esp threatened spp.
- ⊕ Existing PAs – include private and camps
- ⊕ State forest
- ⊕ Exotic/invasive spp infestations or vulnerabilities
- ⊕ Biodiversity
- ⊕ Diversity of eco communities, envs or landscapes
- ⊕ Recreation suitability
- ⊕ Hunting/fishing (special or not)
- ⊕ Utilities/rights of way
- ⊕ Wells – gas, water, private/etc.

(2) Best/highest priority uses?

- ⊕ Agriculture – what types?
- ⊕ Biomass production
- ⊕ Residential development
- ⊕ Recreation
- ⊕ Agroforestry

(3) How to prioritize?

- ⊕ On each/all criteria? Biological, Hydrological
- ⊕ Based on Comprehensive Plan?
- ⊕ Based on threat
- ⊕ Based on existing ease of implementation? For instance:
 - Sympathetic land owners, etc – Danby Land Bank
 - gov’t regulations in place or incentives, WHIP, Ag districts, Forestry Incentives
- ⊕ Proximity to other Pas
- ⊕ Connectivity
- ⊕ Identify developable areas
- ⊕ Building on county plan? What methodologies are already out there that we could use?

Sue B suggests looking at the Tompkins County Preservation Plan, it might provide a methodology for how to do it. She will continue to look into this for us.

Q: is there an example of another town that has a CAC, and how did they do it?

Next Meeting: March 21 7:30

~The End~