

March 21, 2011  
Danby Conservation Advisory Council  
minutes

Present: Mary Ann Barr, Jake Brenner, Joel Gagnon, Tom Gavin, Dan Klein, Julie Kulik, Ted Crane, Ronda Roaring

1) January and February Minutes were approved.

2) Dan and Joel – report on meeting with Andy Zepp at Finger Lakes Land Trust (Joel, Jake, Dan, and Tom were present)

Andy recommended to Not hold conservation easements on land yet, saying that the land trust has not found easements cheaper than owning the land. While the original grantor is sympathetic to the conservation objective, subsequent owners may not be. Enforcement is sensitive, requiring considerable tact. Violations can be expensive to address. Monitoring requires diligence and continuity. He suggested that staff support is very important

We learned that: FLLT easements are generally very simple, making them easier to enforce. The baseline conditions need to be documented, then the properties need regular monitoring to ensure compliance. We agreed to meet with FLLT again, Wed April 6<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at FLLT.

We could work together with FLLT instead of doing easement on our own. Some of the arguments for and against this are:

(against)

If we linked with them, stewardship funds have to come from owners, to fund initial documentation, surveys, legal costs, etc..

Some folks may not want to deal with FLLT, but would with us.

We wouldn't be able to be "opportunistic" in doing easements for people that approach us.

(for)

They are already interested in Michigan Hollow, Lick Brook, Emerald necklace, Danby creek, Lindsay-Parsons, and inholdings/adjacencies for already-protected land. There are lots of areas where we share a common interest in protection

We could do the community work, approaching landowners, educating them about our natural land, and the benefits of easements. How can we fruitfully collaborate? This question will be addressed at the next meeting with FLLT.

Further discussion brought out that there are likely to be properties that we would be interested in protecting that would not be of interest to the land trust. The consensus followed that we would need to be able to do our own easements in those cases, at a minimum. Getting trained to do those would be something the land trust could help us with. That subject will be brought up at the April 6 meeting. Since the town owns a property in Deputron Hollow, it was proposed that that might be a good practice property to do an easement on.

3) Rapid Waters Management Plan – meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>, location undetermined, written comments due

Tom read the plan. His main objection is that they want to section the land and manage it in a rotation, which will not preserve the old-growth forests, of which there are very few in the region. He argues that it is neither necessary nor desirable to manage the forest as if there were no context of other forests around it. You don't have to have max biodiversity on the DEC land. We as the DCAC could have a possible list of comments for this meeting, but doing so would require extra meetings. It was decided that those of us who wanted to could attend the public hearing and comment individually. The group will craft a joint comment to submit in writing, for which there is more time

**TO DO:** We will give written comments to Joel via email. Joel will compile them and post them to the group. The result will be a statement that we will look at and consider adopting/recommending to the town board at the next meeting.

4) Intern Position this summer – primarily to advance mapping. Jake will write this up, needs to be done this week.

Talk of CEA work, but mostly working with us, and other duties as assigned.

5) Town wide April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Joel will represent us with a written statement about our work, and a short oral summary.

6) Outreach Idea: 3-4 summer programs with members of this council and other Danby residents providing informational talks, and nature walks, and pop table (maps, etc) children's programs etc.

First one will be at Jennings Pond – Talk = Land trusts 101. Possibly June 4, since this is “national trails day”. Other programs on land around Danby, possibly on FLLT parcels in Danby or UNAs.

Future – fundraising events? Tour/walks of land/gardens.

Next DCAC meeting: April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30

Submitted by Julie Kulik