

Danby Conservation Advisory Council
June 20, 2011
Minutes

Present:, Christina Konnaris (IC Intern), Jake Brenner, Mary Ann Barr, Joel Gagnon, Tom Gavin, Dan Klein, Julie Kulik, Pamela Goddard, Chelsea Mraz (IC student – worked on Danby survey)

April and May Minutes approved.

Julie – to do: make changes to April, and send all minutes to Pamela, send Christina everyone's email addresses, send Feb minutes to Christina.

Chelsea – presentation on survey (results of a Danby survey to assess knowledge of, and receptivity to, conservation easements) sent to random sample of 25% of landowners. 207 respondents. Some of the findings: 77% of respondents said they were environmentalists, 40% of respondents did not know about Lindsay Parsons Biodiversity Preserve. Over 50% agreed that “the landscape in Danby has Changed a Lot Since I moved Here” Conservation Easements: 58% would not consider putting an easement on their property. 18% were not aware of what an easement is.

Why they would not have an easement: comments include they don't have enough land, MY LAND. 4 respondents already had easements. Conclusions – more education may be needed to dispell misconceptions.

Inquiry: we were approached by someone who is interested in donating an easement, has contacted FLLT, and they have not responded. Approachee will be contacted by Joel.

Christina Konnaris' Land Cover Map -- presentation and discussion of how best to use it. Land Cover Class Description: Water .17%, Built 2 %, Modified 17%, Successional 24%, Forest 60%

Conclusions: 36% of forested land is privately owned.

Jake's suggestion - take Map 23 (2001) from the Comprehensive Plan folder, and compare to this to these figures.

Working on definitions of Open Space, found other examples on internet. She, using the list created at Feb meeting, will create a form for evaluating potential properties for easements where checks will be counted, and compared to other forms/parcels. The overall objective is to characterize undeveloped land in ways that can help us to identify especially valuable areas that can be targeted for preservation efforts. The risk of development needs somehow to be a part of the assessment.

Pamela Goddard – Showed us Ted Crane-designed Bumper Stickers “Keep Danby Danby” – bring these to Jennings Pond program. Dan Klein is planning another bumper sticker – “Danby, 5 degrees cooler” for release later this year.

Danby Fun Day:

We have a stand up display of information (thanks to MaryAnn), Mapping Land Cover for Local-Scale Conservation in the Town (Christina’s poster) and a banner, produced by Bob Chase. Christina – brochure (did you know – about Danby, about Easements)

Dan will take care of printing this – light card stock.

TO DO: all send info to Christina – by Thursday, June 23. What is important to go in this brochure? Christina will prompt the suggestions by sending the board titles of the sections of the brochure.

Upcoming DCAC Evenings:

June 22: Bill Evans/Moths, probable rain, need pop up tent, Dan and Tom Gavin will help by getting there early.

July 13: Danby Town Park (rain – pavilion by Fire House): Leslie Connors Mammals in this region– skeleton collection.

July 26: Mary Woodson’s house, South Danby Rd Wild Edibles.

Future Educational Night idea proposed by Ronda and approved by DCAC: Saturday,

September 10: Kayak on Jennings Pond, Puddle Dockers, moonlight paddle. Put in Danby area news – cost? Bonfire?

Land Trust Standards and Practices -- exploiting these for our benefit

Need: lawyer. Dan and Joel will contact possible lawyers.

Logo and Letterhead: MaryAnn shared her latest designs, we supplied feedback. Her two main designs were both approved, with the choice of which to use based on the specific application.

Some Slogan ideas: Keeping Danby Danby, Danby Has Rural Character(s), shaping Danby’s future, Enhancing Danby’s Future .

Next meeting on July 25th, a week later than usual, due to the town board ,meetings being bumped up a week because of the July 4 holiday.

Submitted by Julie Nichols Kulik