

**Danby Conservation Advisory Council
Minutes of Regular Meeting
April 28, 2014**

Present:

Joel Gagnon
Jake Brenner
Dan Klein
Mary Woodsen
Kate O'Neal
Matt Ulinski

Others Present:

Public Ronda Roaring, Sue Beeners

Minutes

Minutes from the March meeting were approved with the correction being made that the proper spelling of the name of the easement holder is 'Hanson'.

Joel moved, and Jake seconded, a motion to request that the Town Clerk post the minutes of all the CAC meetings on the Town's web site. Matt was not yet present and did not vote.

Marsh Road Consideration/Palmer & Melchen Easements

Sue Beeners gave an update from the Town Board meeting of 4/21. The Town Board, by a 4 to 1 vote, approved in concept a request by Erick Palmer to extend the year-round portion of Marsh Rd. by 620 feet. As mitigating features of this approval, both Erick Palmer (13 acres) and Ted Melchen (42 acres) will give conservation easements on their land.

Kate brought up the idea of also asking them for stewardship funds.

Jake asked how these actions will proceed. Sue said that a timeline is being draw up in consultation with the Town Attorney. Joel suggested simultaneous approvals, ideally to be voted on at the same meeting.

A long discussion ensued concerning the merits of this project.

It was decided that the next steps for the CAC would be to contact Melchen and Palmer, and also adjacent landowner Norkus. Site visits would be scheduled, and then residential and other zones would be delineated. Jake will talk with Ted Melchen, Kate will talk with Erick Palmer, and Mary will talk with the Norkuses. Joel will send a packet of info to all CAC members to use in their dealings with these landowners.

Hanson Easement

Joel reported that we are within days of closing on the Hanson property easement. There was a discussion of how to celebrate. Have a signing under a tent on the land? No decision was made.

Big Tree Registry

Matt reported that he and Don Schaufler have made measurements on a second tree for the Danby Big Tree Registry. This one was a large cottonwood.

GIS Project

A volunteer has come forward to help the Town with its GIS ability. Jake thinks this project could subsume the CAC mapping/ranking project. Jake will touch base with the volunteer. It was universally agreed that 'subsume' is an excellent word.

Submitted by Dan Klein