

**Danby Community Council**  
**Date: November 10, 2015**  
**Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting**

**Board Members present:** Alison Christie (Pres.), Julie Clougherty (Treas.), Gould Colman (VP), Bill Evans (Secr.), Katharine Hunter, Ted Crane (ex officio, non-voting)

**Board Members absent:** Susan Franklin

**Others present:** Danny Wheeler

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & AGENDA REVIEW:**

Alison announced that a West Danby caroling party would be meeting at Ted & Pamela's on Dec 20<sup>th</sup> and all are welcome.

Gould found a copy of DCC Minutes from the 1960s in which a main issue was the removal of junk cars. He noted that "Danby was making a transition in 1960s from being sort of a backward place associated with poor people and what critics thought of as junk was actually spare parts." This raised with him the question of archives and he would like to add an Agenda item for the next meeting that formally addresses the topic of the DCC archives. Julie noted she has some of the archives in her attic.

Katharine noted she may not be able to make the next meeting due to knee surgery.

**VOTES**

Motion to discuss October minutes moved by Gould and seconded by Julie.  
October minutes were approved as amended.

**DISCUSSION**

**Event follow-up**

Harvest-fest had around 75 attend, similar to last year. This was Travis's first year and he did great. He handled the fire and pot for roasting the applesauce. Organizing group activities for the kids was challenging as they were often split between the fire and the tractor rides. Kids seem to really enjoy the carving opportunity with the erasers. Some people brought things to share this year and at least one potential vendor (of honey) expressed interest in participating next year. We need to start prep a bit earlier next year. Timing was good – pumpkins were ripe!

Paris, TX: Outstanding performance but smallish turnout, 30ish. We need a sign in front of Town Hall to help advertise such events - long discussion ensued.

Lynn Craver & Richard Montgomery: 35ish attended and \$73 was collected. Bob paid for and arranged the piano tuning beforehand. Ted thought it was very impressive but Lynn's soprano voice was too loud. Ted suggests we avoid powerful sopranos in the future. Katharine agreed; Alison didn't have a problem with the loudness. Mark Lawrence and Jessica Smith, in the audience, are possible performers in the future. There was a minor problem in that Bob did not have the current code for Town Hall.

### **Events scheduled**

UFO (Unidentified Found Objects) 11/15. People who bring something will put their object on a table and then put their name on a card and put it into a hat. When their name is drawn, they pick up their object from the table and come to the front of the room and field guesses. At the end they can reveal what it is if no one has guessed it. Gould will be the MC and introduce the event, then start off with the first mystery object. Bill is bringing cider & cornbread; Alison & Julie are bringing soup. Katharine will bring a can of SPAM 😊

Bird count warm-up, 12/6. Bill will be writing an article for the next *DAN*. Bill will contact Travis so he can at least get the word out to the kids. Asher will talk about the format of the January 1 Audubon "Christmas Bird Count" and Bill will discuss the species we may see. Discussion followed on the best time to have the warm-up – 10:30AM means the church crowd can't participate and 3pm conflicts with the football. Bill will hash it over with Asher and determine a time and protocol.

Long John and the Tights, 12/13. Ted will go to Julie to get the check.

### **Event planning**

#### Tentative Natural History series for 2016

Lang Elliott – Natural sounds and high res video (Feb/Mar)

David Hopkins - Bee program with David Hopkins & visiting his hives (April/May)

Danby Moth Night – July 1, Upper Buttermilk SP

Alex Flecker – Aquatic Insects of Danby (July)

Butterflies & caterpillars of Danby? (Aug)

Kurt Jordan? – History of Cayugas in Danby area (Sep)

Linda Rayor? – Spiders (Oct)

Alison suggests connecting with the library on these events in case they might like to highlight. Ted suggested getting the schedule nailed down early so that Eric Banford might be able to do a story for Tompkins Weekly. Discussion began on potential payment for some of the natural history series but that topic was steered to the next meeting.

Thank you letters/cards for presenters. We should make a special Danby card.

Danny offered the possibility of bringing in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to stage a Civil War camp. If permission was received they could camp at the Park, sleeping on straw and eating hardtack. At some point they could march over to the monument at Town Hall. If he can get the 148<sup>th</sup>, the women would come too and have their own tent. Timing would depend on their availability (June, July, August). Danny said they would need 3-4 bales of straw, some wood for fires, and water. We would also need to rent a port-a-potty.

There was discussion about dovetailing this Civil War camp staging with Fun Day. More people might see it if it was aligned with Fun Day (July 9<sup>th</sup>) and infrastructure would be in place offering food, etc., but Danny felt it would be better as a separate event and in any case it would depend on their availability. If dovetailed with Fun Day, Katharine suggested we check with the Fire Station folks first to get their feelings on the matter, as Fun Day is a fundraiser for the Fire Station. Everyone agreed to give Danny the go-ahead to pursue the possibility.

Julie expressed interest in a geology talk. Bill has someone in mind but it would be later in 2016.

## **FINANCE**

Julie gave an update: There is \$7148.11 in account. Danby Seniors have been paid.

## **GOVERNANCE**

**Open Seat** Danny is very interested in joining. Bill nominated Danny and Katharine seconded – all approved.

**Agenda Creation and Flow** Bill suggested that we try to get through future Agendas in the first two hours of the meeting and pass topics that need extensive discussion to the third hour. Bill also questioned the purpose of the Agenda. He suggested that we put the tentative Agenda for the next month on the website well in advance (3-4 weeks) of the next meeting to inform folks from Danby who might be interested.

**Meeting with Dave Sanders from County Youth Services** Dave would like to have an event called “How are Tompkins Co. youth doing?” The event would invite community members to provide input toward developing a county-wide action plan. They require at least five participants and the maximum is 20. They would facilitate the hour-long meeting along with several trained staff and college students. The consensus was that we should be involved. This would mean recruiting the five people and various names were mentioned. The

discussion ended with agreement that the hour before next DCC meeting on Dec 3 would work.

### **Committee formation**

1. Old school: Alison initiated discussion of the topic Gould had introduced in previous meetings. Bill nominated Gould and Alison to meet with the school administrators to feel out possibilities of the Town using the school – they had indicated interest in a previous meeting. Katharine seconded.
2. Swim lessons at Jennings Pond: Alison suggests this topic needs two Members to take this on. Bill and Katharine were dubious about the possibility due to the goose poop and murky condition of the pond. The topic needs further discussion. In the meantime, Bill will contact Amy Cusimano and Mary Ann Kozak to get their feedback on the idea.

**Town sign** Town Sign: Ted noted that a Town Board member, during a Town Board meeting, had requested that an entire side of the sign be used to advertise an upcoming "Protect Your Water" meeting. The request was not addressed to anyone in particular but Ted was aware of it because he was at the meeting.

He noted that the Water meeting would have been on the Sign anyway because it was on the Danby News calendar. Because of the need to announce other events, he updated the sign three times during the days leading up to the Water meeting, adding more info about that meeting each time, with a final display that occupied the entire north side of the sign. Events subsequent to the Water meeting, that would normally have been added to the sign as older events passed, received less-than-usual advance coverage.

**MEETING ADJORNED AT 10:10 PM**

**NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 3 AT 7PM**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Evans