

DRAFT MINUTES

Danby Community Council
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, January 7, 2016, 7pm

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

Board Members absent: none

Others present: Wayne Westmiller, Joe Freedman, Shelly Jo Lester, Dave Sanders

Welcome & Announcements

Alison started the meeting and welcomed attendees, noting that she brought delicious tangerines to share.

DCC sign policy

The Danby Fire Commissioners (Wayne and Joe) joined us to discuss their needs for their own sign. They indicated that fire district does not have its own sign and could fill the current sign completely with their information. Discussion ensued and the conclusion was that two signs are needed – one for the fire district and one for Town activities. The possibility of side-by-side signs was ruled out.

Gould questioned whether there was another route for the fire district to get its message out, such as having a page in the Danby Area News. Wayne noted that sometimes (e.g., pancake breakfasts) they would like to reach folks beyond Danby.

Katharine noted the importance to her that a sign indicate what the fire hazard is. Someone else noted the utility of putting up notices to change smoke detector batteries.

Alison suggested a separate meeting to discuss sign locations. Danny and Ted volunteered to meet with Wayne and Joe and discuss locations. Wayne and Joe said they would take the discussion back to the commissioners and see what they think.

Gould reiterated that he hopes the commissioners will discuss alternative ways to get their message out.

(~30 minutes)

Danby Youth Programs

Dave Sanders from Tompkins County Youth Services confirmed that the Town has received additional funding for the Youth Program (YP). Backstory: in 2010 the County Administrator took \$100k out of youth service programs. Most municipalities including

Danby increased spending to match the cut. That funding has now been restored, with Danby receiving \$4.9k. This is “forever” money.

To participate, the Town needs to have a part-time youth development person, such as Travis. When Travis is involved, it is officially part of the County’s Youth Development Program. Alison questioned about using money to hit different age ranges. She also noted that Travis has a full plate and we can’t add to his paid work, so how are we going to spend the money? Dave noted we could add Primitives, but Travis is already strong in teaching that skill set. Other possible uses for the extra funds include investing in storage space or supplies. Dave said it is okay to use funds for one-time Family programs, include natural history, which Bill has been inquiring about.

Shelley Lester, Rural Youth Programs Mgr at CCE, reviewed the proposed 2016 budget, including a proposed budget for the extra money. She indicated that we have underspent in 2015 (i.e., Town won’t be billed as much as anticipated). Alison noted that we could have spent it on something else. Ted notes that we again have contributed to the Town’s positive balance over the years. Ted suggests we dovetail youth program events with weekend family presentations.

Regarding storage space, we need to check with Travis – seems like he doesn’t use much. He currently keeps a lot of stuff in his car/residence. Shelley points out that most municipalities have a storage area. All agreed we need a day to aggregate all the youth stuff.

Youth Employment: Ted asks if the program turned anyone down from Danby – Shelley said we had money for everyone who applied in 2015 and work sites in place for 2016.

Gould moves to adopt YP budget, Katharine seconded. All were in favor, with some \$ steering decisions to come.

Shelley shared fall report and updated on winter programs (Iron Chef - 3 from Boyton and 4 from South Hill; Rocketry – 3 from Boynton, 3 from SH, one home school; Biology Tuesdays [Swamp Stomp]).

Julie noted that for ease of reporting to United Way, it would be useful for Travis to report how many sessions occurred.

Travis’ probation period ends Feb 2. His work over the first 6 months has received positive feedback and Ted is getting YP content for the DAN.

Lunch Bunch – 15 total (need clarification on how many from Danby)

Alison says programs are arriving – notes that in the past there had been more collaboration on programs.

Girls ventures is continuing. Discussion on compatibility of male program leader.

(~ 1.3 hours)

Minutes

Postponed until next meeting

Event follow-up

Bird Count Warm-up on December 6 and Audubon "Christmas" bird count on January 1. We had 10-11 participants. Comfortable, warm gathering. Had one Danby newcomer. Good start for a new annual tradition. Led to best participation in memory for the Danby sector on the Jan 1 Audubon "Xmas" bird count. Julie noted that owls were down in Danby and the whole 15-mile diameter count circle area.

Long John and the Tights on December 15. Excellent performance. 25-30 in attendance. Gould and John Hoffmann subsequently got together and polished off a special bottle of bourbon.

Events scheduled

February 7 Jazz Concert

Annual Meeting scheduled for 21 Jan. Discussion on whether to move date because no notice in DAN.

Event planning

Annual Meeting.

In preparation we need to decide who gets what terms. Alison tentatively would take a two-year term. Danny Wheeler tentatively take a one-year term. Julie tentatively takes a one-year term.

Potluck, music, and slideshow. Bill will ask Bob if he would be willing to play piano. Julie and her kids will collate slideshow of pics from year's events.

We need to prepare report with brief financial review. Alison and Julie will do this. Library will need to be notified to wall off area.

Concerts

Grady Girls prospect in March – Alison pursuing

Augusto & Pablo – Alison will contact Bob

Civil War Living History Encampment – June 24-26.

Encampment will come in Friday night and leave Sunday. Firing muskets on the hour.

Marching from park to monument where Danny will hold a service. Also including

“Sidney Camp 41” which Danny reestablished. Will need straw, wood, outhouses.

Danny could do a talk in the shade outside Town Hall. Alison suggests a marketing plan for the event to maximize participation. Possibly dovetail breakfast at fire department or at church.

Garden Slide Show by Pat Curran

Program date, time and topic preference discussion

Permaculture Series

Julie reports that there is no charge for insurance riders. Alison notes that the number of Town Hall programs has jumped to 12 from 6, higher than previously planned, and she needs to check on that.

School Visit Update

Gould noted that he and Alison met with the school board and the meeting went well, and that a tour of school facilities is planned. Alison thinks that more than the gym may be possible. Gould notes that lawyers and insurance may be an issue.

Meeting Adjourned 10:10pm

Respectful submitted by Bill Evans