

MINUTES

Danby Community Council
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday November 3, 2016 7:00 pm

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

Board Members absent: None

Others present: Chris Muka, Dave Sanders

Welcome & Announcements

Welcome to Chris, who is potentially interested in joining the DCC and is sitting in on meetings to tune in. Alison reminded us that we have a national election next week and that Doug's Fish Fry is coming up November 21.

Gould would like to add an agenda item to the next meeting involving local history, specifically the need for Danby biographical activity.

Youth subcommittee meeting follow-up

Dave Sanders summarized the meeting: One of the topics that came up is whether the youth coordinator position could be expanded to full time. Regarding the 2016-2017 budget, if we weren't going to change anything and stay with a part-time manager, CCE would request that the budget increase by \$291. The reason is that Danby has to match the money that the county gives. The county gave \$15,009 in 2016 and with state money, the total is \$15,806. Now that county moneys have increased, we need to pay attention in order to match. Dave elaborated further on ½ time vs. ¾ vs. full time positions. Alison asked if 32 hours instead of 30 hours could be arranged for the ¾ position, so that four 8 hour days could be accommodated. Dave wasn't sure about that and seemed to lean toward the idea that ¾ is more of a transition step to full time (Enfield had a ¾ position for a year and a half until they bumped up to full time). As it turns out there is surplus for the part-time position for 2017 (of \$4700). This could be used for youth employment. Dave noted CCE is no longer coordinating youth employment – CCE is working with the YES program to handle it.

The ¾ position costs go up to about \$34000, in which case we would have a deficit of about \$3000 and no youth employment \$. If we go up to full time, the cost goes up to about \$42,500, with a deficit of almost \$12,000. But Dave noted there is money available in Newfield they are not using, so teaming with Newfield might enable a full time position. Dave said this would involve a contract and take about a year to implement, so wouldn't be set up until 2018. Dave thinks the Newfield situation would provide additional funding opportunities such as from the Park Foundation, so he thinks eventually Danby wouldn't have to be the sole supporter.

Ted brought up a good question – why is Danby having to spend more money on its current youth program, which already has a surplus? Dave explained that in 2010, TC Commissioner Joe Mareane had cut \$45k from TC youth programming, which translated to a \$4.5k cut for each Town. Dave said most municipalities made up the deficit on their own. Then in 2016 Mareane

increased the budget again after Towns had already determined their budgets, so most Towns had surpluses for 2016. But with the increased county funding, came the associated mandatory match by Towns, so that is where we are. [Any correction for 2017 is apparently up to the Towns. In Danby's case, this happens to coincide with consideration of increasing the hours of the youth coordinator position.]

After Dave left, the members discussed the options. Going to full time has been touted as the key to establishing a thriving and sustaining youth program. Gould noted that we therefore would be asking the Town to invest in hope by increasing support. He suggested we propose a one-year trial and then present the results back to the Town. Julie thinks we are not in a position to ask for more money because we don't have enough kids (a sort of Catch-22 here).

Further discussion put off until next youth subcommittee meeting.

Event Follow-up

Young Naturalist Talk: Sat., Oct. 15, noon. Nice presentation; small turnout.

Harvest Festival, Sun., Oct. 16, 2-5 pm. Very successful all around with beautiful weather. Dave Gell's wood working "booth" and the Cornell raptor show were mainstays and very well received. Gould's tractor rides and the pumpkin launching trebuchet operated by Tom Janda were a hit as always. David Hopkins' folky honey sales fit in well. Many thanks to Uncle Joe & the Rosebud Ramblers for donating the spirited music!

Spider presentation by Linda Rayor – About 45 attendees were treated to an overview of the interesting world of spiders followed by an impressive show & tell of many species, including our local moderately poisonous Yellow-sac Spider.

Upcoming Events

Young Naturalist Talk: Sat., 11/12, noon

Cornell Wind Quintet, 12/11, 3 pm

Event Planning

Concerts -- Piano Trio planned for January 15. Alison is still working on a date with Jennie Lowe Stearns, and we are aiming to have the Grady Girls again.

Christmas Bird Count – Bill and Asher will be hosting the warm-up on Dec 17, serving apple fritters and hot beverages followed by birding around Town Hall,

Annual Meeting – January 15 after the piano concert.

Talk: Spacecraft ImagingGuy

Danby Sign

Ted urged that we move the sign before the fire dept. installs theirs and he reviewed our some of the options for where to put it. Alison shared her discussion with the Dotson Park folks.

Updates

Birdhouse Installation/Nestwatch – Bill will install the remaining boxes but is still considering the poles and predator guards.

United Way site visit scheduled for Nov 18th but Alison may see if the meeting can be moved to Nov 21 at Doug's Fish Fry.

Youth Sub-Committee: Next meeting will be November 10, 11 am at Cooperative Extension.

Financial Reporting

Governance -- DCC Elections coming up at the annual meeting in 2017.

Meeting Adjourned ~10:00pm

Respectfully submitted by Bill Evans