

**MINUTES**  
Danby Community Council  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday December 1 2016 7:00 pm

**Board Members present:** Alison Christie (Pres.), Julie Clougherty (Treas.), Ted Crane (ex officio, non-voting), Susan Franklin, H. Katharine Hunter

**Board Members absent:** Gould Colman, Bill Evans, Danny Wheeler

**Others present:** None

**Welcome & Announcements**

West Danby Community Sing, Sunday, Dec. 18, 3 pm, Great Room, Slow Lane

**Event Follow-up**

Young Naturalist Talk: Reptiles & Amphibians, Sat., Nov. 12. Seven youth participated. Presentation included a live gecko and corn snake.

**Upcoming Events**

Young Naturalist Talk on ants: Sat., 12/3, noon.

Woodwind Quintet, 12/11, 3 pm. Alison, Katharine and Julie will be coordinating & handling drinks and food.

Christmas Bird Count Warm Up, 12/17, 10 am. Bill and Asher will be coordinating & handling drinks, food, etc.

Christmas Bird Count, January 1, 2017. Asher is the count coordinator and Bill will be opening up Town Hall at 3:30pm serving apple dumplings and hot drinks for the species compilation.

**Event Planning**

2017 Concerts: Piano Trio, January 15; Toivo, 2/5; hopefully Grady Girls, date TBD; Cornell Klezmer, 4/9.

Future concerts: Jennie Lowe Stearns (Alison working on this); Ted suggested trying to get the contemporary folk rock band called the Mammals, but others thought we had enough music currently on the schedule. Discussion proceeded to the possibility of having a concert with Danby musicians – this evolved to what Katharine suggested as a Danby music showcase, and further input from Alison and Ted led to a title of Danby Talent Day, which would open it up to poets and artists. June 11 was discussed as a possible date.

Annual Meeting – discussion on the purpose of the annual meeting and what we want to do this year and in the future. Julie suggested we have the meeting this year after the piano concert on January 15. After further discussion this was agreed upon. The idea is for a short meeting with some finger food.

Julie updated on her son Cole's Eagle Scout project, which will involve a few presentations at Town Hall.

Spacecraft imaging presentation -- no date yet.

Danby historical initiative (photos, biographies) by Gould postponed until next meeting.

### **General Discussion**

Discussion on the annual meeting evolved into general wide-ranging discussion on the future of the Danby community. Susan described the community café phenomenon, which she has learned about from recent applications in Dryden and Newfield or Enfield. Simply stated, it's an event scheduled and facilitated for a community to brainstorm toward productive ends. You need a core group of interested participants and then professional facilitators -- CCE can do the latter. Alison noted the need for such community building given the current divisiveness after the national election. Susan is also part of the talking circle on race & racism at the multicultural resource center, which has opened her eyes on ways a community can be more inclusive.

Ted pointed out that the perennial question that comes up when philosophizing about the future of Danby is development, noting the TC Housing Summit's tentative idea of putting 80 to 120 housing units in the Hamlet of Danby.

Many Danby issues of course are beyond the scope of the DCC and should be addressed through the Town Board, but DCC activities can support the container moving forward. That said Julie, playing devil's advocate, brought up the notion that maybe Danby families are just fine and don't need what the DCC is trying to offer – in which case maybe there is no need for youth programming. Alison then painted the picture of kids looking back and saying yeah I grew up in Danby but I didn't know any Danby kids. Julie further suggested that many Danby kids may not even know they live in Danby! After reaching the depressing idea of essentially no Danby community, further tag teaming between Alison, Julie, and Katharine led to the epiphanal idea of giving Danby kids a Danby T-shirt or hoodie. This spawned further spirited conversation on potential sponsors (e.g., church, fire department) and logos. For example: “Danby: hard to get to, but less centrally isolated”; “Left of Ithaca”; “Ithaca Gun South”; Underbelly of Tompkins County”.

Alison said she would be willing to work on the T-shirt/hoodie idea. She asked Susan if she would like to move the café idea forward for next meeting.

Julie brought up tying this vision toward the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. What is Danby? Home of the trebuchet? Why do we care? We need a community café/coffee shop? Ted noted the number of people who want to develop in Danby is getting larger; thankfully no one has any money. Alison summarized a motivation of the café or brainstorming session: We want to have a successful youth program!

### **Danby Sign**

Nothing in writing with Olivia Vent and her tenants were okay with it. Julie reported that the sign came up at the last Park meeting and that no one has a problem with it at this point. Any further progress with the sign will need to wait until the spring. Ted suggest out of courtesy acknowledging Olivia Vent as a sponsor of the Danby News.

## **Danby Area News**

Ted noted that current advertising in the DAN only covers the page it is on. Further conversation ensued on the policy of acceptable advertisements.

## **Youth Program**

Julie's husband, Tom Janda, is available through at least January to fill the void in the program caused by Jack's unexpected departure (Jack only held the position ~2 months).

Alison presented feedback from her meeting with the Town Board regarding the youth program manager position.

Next youth subcommittee meeting is December 9.

## **Updates**

- Birdhouse Installation/Nestwatch
- Danby School
- Youth grants
- Town of Danby Website
- Youth Sub-Committee: Meeting December X, 11 am Co-op Extension
- Summer Hunger
- Jennings Pond Film Project

## **Financial Reporting**

Julie reviewed current status.

## **Governance**

Discussion on DCC Elections, 2017.

## **Meeting Adjourned ~11:00pm**

Quote from the Secretary (who missed the meeting) after transcribing these Minutes from audio:  
"Best DCC meeting I've transcribed during my tenure!"

Respectfully submitted by Bill Evans