

**MINUTES**  
Danby Community Council  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday January 5 2017 7:00 pm

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

**Board Members absent:** None

**Others present:** None

**Welcome & Announcements**

Alison brought her delicious homemade pumpkin soup and freshly baked bread to share.

**Minutes**

Susan moved the December 1, 2016 Minutes. Approved as amended.

Julie moved the November 3, 2016 Minutes. Approved as amended.

Julie moved the June 2, 2016 Minutes. Approved as amended.

**Event Follow-up**

Bird count warm-up – Review of last year’s count and planning for the upcoming count on January 1st. Seven attended.

Audubon bird count - 12 participants counting in Danby found 41 species, and 90 species were found by 148 participants in the whole Ithaca area count. In Danby, Julie Clougherty saw a Bald Eagle off Sand Bank Rd, Bill Evans found a Winter Wren along the inlet creek, and Asher Hockett and Sandy Wold reported the only Yellow-rumped Warbler in the whole Ithaca area count behind the South Hill Business Center. Alison suggested writing up a summary of the count for the Danby Area News (DAN). Bill thought Asher would be willing to do this. Further conversation on the possibility of a monthly nature column in the DAN, continuing the effort put forth in past years by Julie Kulik.

**Upcoming Events**

DLR Piano Trio, January 15.

Annual Meeting - Alison will prepare a President’s report, Julie will prepare a financial report. We’ll have slides from the year’s events and a simple food buffet.

Toivo Finnish/Tex Mex, February 5.

Grady Girls, TBD.

Cornell University Klezmer Ensemble, April 9.

Bob relayed that the quintet that cancelled in December is available June 11, 18, or 25. After discussion, June 11 was decided as the best option. Alison would discuss further with Bob.

Alison noted that the ACFU tax help will be available again in West Danby and “Upper” Danby, March 11 and 25. Susan is willing to host both events.

### **Event Planning**

Bill brought up the possibility of having a Danby forest conference similar to the stream conference last year. The tentative date is Friday July 14, again at the Upper Buttermilk SP pavilion. An associated activity would be a Danby champion tree quest, coordinated by the Danby Conservation Advisory Council (CAC). Alison suggested that an engraved slice of a tree trunk be used to acknowledge each species' award. On a related note, Bill and Don Schaufler, a retired forester who is on the CAC, will be leading a bird & tree walk on May 13. The event is being sponsored by the CAC. Bill would like the DCC to consider sponsoring it also (providing food & drinks).

Bill brought up the possibility of having the Finger Lakes Mineral Club host rock, fossil, & meteorite show on May 15. The show could be outdoors in front of Town Hall if the weather is good, or inside Town Hall if needed. Everyone seemed enthusiastic.

Another idea is to have a home grown pumpkin contest this year with the contesting pumpkins brought to the harvest festival in October for judging. Alison brought up the idea of giving away pumpkin seeds at the West Danby Egg Hunt.

Gould elaborates on his previous ideas regarding a new Danby historical initiative (photos, biographies, etc.). In today's meeting he discussed the idea of archiving audio *conversations* of long time Danby residents and the possibility that they might be preserved, along with other documents, at Cornell (name of entity?). We'd need to develop procedures, then announce in DAN and online, and get a couple examples out there as teasers. Alison brought up the idea of having an online Danby map, and that this could be a lead up to Danby's 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020.

### **Danby Sign Guidelines**

Ted handed around a draft of the sign guidelines for comments. After discussion and a few amendments, Julie moved the language to a vote. All approved. (see attached)

### **Youth Program**

Discussion on Tom Janda's availability to assist with the youth program and how we handle transitions & moving forward. Working assumption is that he is finished after January. Ted queried whether anyone knows of someone like Tom who might be interested. Danny suggested aiming to start up again in the spring. Ted stated he thinks the hiring process the last few times has not had good results, questioning the effectiveness of the Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) process. Discussion ensued on CCE vetting process. At the last hiring we were under pressure to find someone. This time perhaps better to take time and wait for right person. Further discussion on whether to aim for ½ or ¾ time position. Gould said he approved of the communication with the Town Board and that we simply need to be patient and let them satisfy themselves that more expenditure is justified. Alison suggested meeting with Ric to discuss further, and all agreed.

**Meeting Adjourned ~10:30pm**

**Addendum:** Gould arrived late because his furnace malfunctioned. This being Gould's last DCC meeting as a regular member, the rest of the members sang him a tribute song of "The Bear Went Over the Mountain".

Respectfully submitted by Bill Evans

# Danby Community Council Sign Guidelines

Thursday, 05-Jan-2016

- 1) **Content:** Commercial, political, and religious messages are not permitted. However, messages regarding events sponsored by commercial, political, or religious groups are allowed, provided that the event is of interest to the general public, and that any commercial, political, or religious result is secondary to the event's main purpose.
- 2) **Content:** Different messages may appear on the two sides of the sign. One side of the sign is often used for information about the next Community Council event, while the other often contains summary information about multiple events.
- 3) **Appearance:** Messages should be clear, even when read from the window of a vehicle travelling at the legal speed limit. Abbreviations are acceptable, but should be tailored for clarity. Date and event info should be clear, time should be shown when possible. Messages should appear in order of date and time.
- 4) **Source:** Messages to be displayed on the sign should be taken from the most recent issue of the Danby News and other Danby sources (if they contain more recent or more complete information). To ensure that event information is provided to the Danby News, the Sign Steward should refer requests for message display to the Danby News editor.
- 5) **Duplication:** Messages that appear on other nearby sign boards (including, but not limited to, the Pirates Club, the Community Church, the Park, and the Fire District) need not be duplicated on the sign.
- 6) **Priority:** Messages should be prioritized; messages of a higher priority should appear in preference to those of lower priority. The highest priority messages are those about emergencies; non-event messages have the lowest priority. The complete priority list is as follows:
  - 1) Emergency Information (usually provided by the Town)
  - 2) Community Council events (meetings, concerts, etc.)
  - 3) Town Government events (meetings, hearings, elections)
  - 4) Town Committee events
  - 5) Other events open to the public
  - 6) Non-event messages (seasonal, etc.).
- 7) **Timing:** The contents of the sign should be current. When possible, messages should be displayed several days, but usually not more than two weeks, in advance of an event.
- 8) **Execution:** The Danby Community Council shall designate a Sign Steward(s), as needed, to implement these guidelines.