

MINUTES
Danby Community Council
Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday April 6 2017 7:00 pm

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

Board Members absent: none

Others present: Ric Dietrich (Town Supervisor)

Welcome & Announcements

Alison welcomed everyone and reviewed the Agenda. She noted the upcoming West Danby Egg Hunt on April 15th.

Julie noted that Cole Janda will be hosting the third of three health presentations for his Eagle Scout program regarding Lyme Disease, likely sometime in May.

Youth Committee update

Regarding the proposed expansion of the Danby Youth Program involving Newfield and The Park Foundation, Ric reviewed his understanding of the status and further needs of the MOU. Alison & Julie reiterated that The Park Foundation wants an MOU with the DCC -- the Town would not be a signatory. Ric noted that since the Town is being asked to provide funding, a second agreement between the Town and the DCC is needed.

A 45 minute discussion ensued with Ric asking questions and critically reviewing the current state of the proposal. Ric expressed a fairly dismal outlook on Youth Development these days in Tompkins County given the current low priority and lack of funding. He challenged the DCC regarding the value of the age group targeted and the overall effectiveness and goals of the program

Alison indicated that the DCC would not be changing the program, and Ric asked why not? Alison reviewed the goals of the program – to stabilize and improve integrity of the program and serve a wider service area. Alison noted we don't have a school and justified that the program has and would continue to develop skills. Katharine noted we are the "seed sower", not raising kids to stay in Danby. Katharine used Iron Chef as an example – teach kids such elementary things as using a knife in the kitchen.

Ric suggested asking parents or kids themselves what they need. Alison, Julie, Katharine noted that we had done a survey.

Ric stated that we need a clear reason for why we would essentially be upping taxes. In his mind the biggest problem with kids these days is the rural schools disconnect with city schools.

Alison reiterated the youth program goals: we are going to continue with the same kind of programming we have had; we are going to expand service to West Danby and Newfield; we are going to add stability to the current program and enable it to become more successful. The program will be especially targeted toward kids vulnerable to falling through the cracks.

Julie moved to discuss moving the \$797 that comes from the state to the youth employment program fund for 2017; Susan seconded. This was agreed upon by the all the members.

Bill moved to discuss whether to participate in the Youth Employment Services (YES). After discussion, the members agreed that the program, though less flexible in hours worked, is a high quality program and our best option.

Julie moved the proposal to hire the YES program to administer our youth program funds. Susan seconded, and all the members were in favor. In further discussion, Ted noted it would be nice to request that the jobs be in Danby.

Minutes

Katharine moved the March 2, 2016 Minutes. All approved as amended.

Event Follow-up

Grady Girls, March 19. Lower turn out than 2016.

ACFU tax help, West Danby and “Upper” Danby, March 11 and 25 respectively.

Upcoming Events

Cayuga Klezmer Kapelye, April 9.

Finger Lakes Mineral Club, May 15. Bill is coordinating.

Natural History Series – Danby Pollinator Club presentation by Maria van Dyke, May 18 or 25? Bill will be coordinating with David Hopkins.

Elizabeth Shuhan flute concert, June 11.

Event Planning

Danby Talent Show – More discussion

Big Pumpkin Contest – Bill will submit an article for the May issue of the Danby Area News.

Updates

Birdhouse installation/Nestwatch. Installation is planned for April 27.

Financial

Julie submitted the proposed budget. After a number of corrections, Susan moved to accept the budget, Katharine seconded, and all approved.

Meeting Adjourned 10:10 pm

Quote of night: “Youth development is dead, strangled by budget cuts.....It’s amazing that kids grow up at all.” – Ric Dietrich (said from his long involvement with YD.)

Respectfully submitted by Bill Evans