

**MINUTES**  
Danby Community Council  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Thursday November 2 2017 7:05pm

**Board Members present:** Alison Christie (Pres.), Ted Crane, Julie Clougherty (Treas.), Bill Evans (Secr.), Susan Franklin, H. Katharine Hunter (VP), Danny Wheeler

**Board Members absent:** none

**Others present** none

**Welcome and Announcements**

Alison announced and invited everyone to come to the Appreciation Dinner & Fundraiser for the Danby & West Danby First Responders this coming Saturday 5pm at the First Baptist Church. Hilltoppers will perform.

Julie announced that her son Cole has been awarded Eagle Scout status!

Bill mentioned that three residents from Bald Hill Rd in Danby will be performing in The Hangar Theatre's production of *A Christmas Carol* -- his daughter Veery, AJ Tatusko, and David Studwell.

**Minutes**

Julie moved the October 5, 2017 meeting minutes and all approved.

**Event Follow-up**

Harvest Festival Forecasted rain held off and about 150 folks were treated to outstanding weather (sunny, high 70s F) and a summery good time. While the lively music of Uncle Joe & the Rosebud Ramblers filled the air, Melis entertained steady traffic of kids at the craft table, Tom and Ted managed the pumpkin (via trebuchet) and potato (air pressure tube) launch show, Danny hosted a Civil War memorabilia table and Bill hosted a table of more than 100 roadkill butterflies he found while biking on route 96B in Danby during the summer. A center of attraction was the darling porcupine on show by educational staff from the Cayuga Nature Center. The DCC provided hot dogs, cider, and marshmallows for roasting. \$117 was donated. David Hopkins, the only vendor, said he had good sales of his Sky Barn honey.

A seminal event at Harvest Fest this year was Danby's first big pumpkin growing contest. Big Max pumpkin seeds (purchased from FedCo in Maine) were available for anyone interested in the competition in late May at Town Hall. This variety is known for pumpkins 50-100 lbs. Due to the very wet summer, many in the competition lost their pumpkins to rot or disease. Five entrants brought pumpkins for the Harvest Fest weigh-in. The first place entry was submitted by the DCC's Bill Evans & family. It was a gorgeous orange orb weighing in at 97 lbs. The Evans family also took 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a 60 pounder. Kitty Hall-Thurnheer won the award for most beautiful pumpkin, an anemic, eggplant-shaped Cucurbita that mystified DCC big pumpkin judge, Susan Franklin.

Alison questioned whether the pumpkin contest was properly integrated into Harvest Fest. Julie concurred and suggested we consider laying out the location of attractions at the festival beforehand. Discussion ensued on adding more educational events next year (e.g., TC Solid

Waste). Alison wondered whether we are successfully engaging kids with each other. Katharine noted that the festival is not billed specifically as a kids event and that perhaps we could have a particular event or two that would integrate kids. A tentative date ofr next year's Harvest Fest was set for of October 14<sup>th</sup>. Alison noted that we need to offer more veggie dogs for next year – they “sold” out early this year.

Uncle Joe and the Rosebud Ramblers A fun performance for ~30 attendees. \$31 raised. The band generously played past their allotted time and had great time as well.

### **Event Planning**

Turkish music program w/ Dara Anissi Sunday Nov 12. Julie & Katharine will be attending. Melis and her mother have an event for kids Nov 10 at the CCE kitchen to help prepare food for the event.

LilySilly Puppet show – Nov 18, 2pm.

Space imaging presentation arranged by Ted for December 3. Ted will not be able to attend.

Jazz trio performance arranged by Katharine for December 10, 3pm.

Bird count warm-up with Asher, Bill & others – Saturday December 16 at 10:30am.

Bill mentioned that Mary Woodsen is interested in doing another talk on Lyme Disease for the Town. Alison suggested this might work well as a starter for renewing the DCC's community health programs that originated with Cole Janda's Eagle Scout work. Julie suggested another program in the series could be on the topic of end of life planning.

Bill has contacted Norm Trigoboff about doing a lichen and moss walk. He is interested and suggested early May. He also suggested having it co-sponsored by the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society.

Bill mentioned that national pollinator week is in mid-June and he and David Hopkins hope to organize an event in Danby.

Also on the potential natural history agenda for 2018 are presentations on snails and mushrooms.

Danny noted that the next DCC-sponsored Civil War encampment is tentatively planned for June 22-23. Alison discussed the possibility of coordinating with the Dorothy Cotton singers and arranging pertinent film showings, and outreach with the TC History Center, the Danby Historians, library, etc.

Preliminary discussion on lots of other ideas....e.g., field trips, aquatic life in ponds/streams (Katharine/Alison), stars (Susan).

### **Youth Programs**

Alison reviewed the results of the last youth committee meeting. She noted that Melis has hit the ground running and the average daily numbers of attendees for the Danby youth Program are way better than any recent program manager's start. Melis is interested in going to full-time. She currently is half-time, getting extra work from CCE, and 10 extra hours a week from DCC via

our backlog of youth funding. The challenge will be to raise extra money for greater than half-time work in 2018.

Discussion on the possibility of Melis taking kids accompanied by family members on a day trip to see the Lights on the Lake show in Syracuse.

Alison concerned that the kids in the youth program need to get outside more.

**Financial**

Continued discussion on the youth program funding.

**Meeting Adjourned 9:45pm**

Respectfully submitted by Bill Evans