Danby Gas Drilling Task Force Minutes 22-Jun-2011

Present: J.Tiffany (Chair), G.Garrison, S.Beeners, K.Halton, R.Chase, M.Terlizzi (Newfield), R.Horowitz, S.Fish (Lansing), D.Kiley, C.Bowman, P.Wooster, T.Crane (Secretary)

- Meeting brought to order at 7:03pm.
- Minutes of 08-Jun-2011 approved by acclamation.
- Announcements: big fracking event at Ithaca College this weekend.
- The recent Caroline Town Board meeting was discussed. In Caroline, a resolution was proposed, that would have prohibited its Town Board from taking any action--pro or con--gas drilling. With about 250 residents in attendance, the resolution was tabled.
- Dryden's gas-drilling-related resolution was discussed, along with Ulysses', as well as other legislative activity in Tompkins County and at the NY State level. NYS Senator Seward has introduced S5830, to extend Home Rule power--with respect to oil and gas drilling--to municipalities.
- J.Tiffany described recent legislative activity in Danby. In the last few days, an otherwise orderly, if slow, process, has been disrupted by rumors and misinformation about the timeline of State and Town activities.
- The group discussed how it could best assist the Town in the creation of law(s) appropriate to the situation. Some Planning Board members have asked the GDTF to provide draft legislation that would kickstart the process. Horowitz, Garrison, Crane, Tiffany, and Wooster volunteered.
- Bowman led a discussion of the current status of the Aquifer Protection Ordinance. Todd Miller (USGS) has been asked to provide the maps on which the ordinance would be based. He has estimated 4-6 weeks work over a period of six months and a \$15-20K cost, part of which would be covered by USGS.
- Bowman moved that funds be made available to support the mapping program outlined by Todd Miller of USGS in his proposal; approximately \$15-20 with USGS matching 30% of the cost. Motion passed by acclamation.
- Kiley described a presentation prepared by her County group. About one hour long, it's being offered to Danby when we can line up a venue and schedule (Tues or Wed preferred, August 3, 7:30pm, perhaps? Fire Hall?). She also described a "toolkit" under development; currently, it only lists documents/laws that are related to gas drilling, but sample documents are being collected.
- Garrison described ideas for Fun Day (July 9). Handouts from ROUSE and "Coalition to Protect NY", maps. Folks are welcome to hang out and help at the table.
- Next meeting on July 13, 7:30pm in Town Hall.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:07.