

Minutes of Danby Gas Drilling Task Force Meeting 13-Feb-2013

Present:

K.Halton, K.Morris, MA.Barr, L.Connors, N.Medsker, A.Stork, R.Dietrich, T.Crane (secretary), A.Klingensmith. E.Kokkelenberg arrived at 7:45.
Two students from the Ithaca High School Government class also attended:
Alea Davey-Bostic and Maddie Palmer.

Meeting brought to order at 7:06pm.

Chairperson was not present. Halton chaired the meeting, announcing that the major topic would be preparation for the 21-Feb "Danby Aquifer" presentation by Todd Miller, USGS.

Halton reported that Sue Heavenrich (media) will write an article for Tompkins Weekly about the Todd Miller presentation. Gay Huddle (Ithaca Journal, "Town Talk") will have it in her column the day of the event. Halton is also sending to Ithaca Community Radio. Morris sent to Ithaca Times calendar. Crane placed an article in Broader View Weekly, to appear this week with a reminder squib on the day of the event.

Barr described her poster and its distribution.

Klingensmith moved approval of the minutes of the 16-Jan meeting. Morris seconded. Approved by acclamation.

Klingensmith will prepare a handout for the Todd Miller presentation, about water monitoring in Danby. Possible heading: "What's Danby Doing? Water monitoring and stream study."

Halton called for volunteers to open and set up the hall for the presentation. Medsker and Crane offered to arrive at 6:30pm. Halton noted that, during Miller's first presentation, some of the audience complained that they could not hear him clearly. Crane noted that there is a PA available in the hall, and will bring additional "parts" in case they are needed.

One of the IHS students formerly lived in Mansfield, PA. The group inquired about her experiences during the onset of fracking in that region.

Crane will send an announcement about the 21-Feb event to the GDTF mailing list.

The group discussed recent happenings with respect to the NYS DEC SGEIS about fracking. The news media are reporting two apparently contradictory items: a delay in the completion of a health study of fracking (and therefore, a delay in the SGEIS process), and the potential for issuance of drilling permits in the near future.

Halton presented information from Sue Beeners (Code Enforcement Officer), about a potential student intern that might be hired during the summer. Cornell would pay ½ of the salary, the Town ½ (total of \$3800). Application is due this Friday, 2/15. The intern could do research on behalf of the Town or the GDTF; for example, research aquifer regulations or take a survey. Halton relayed advice that interns should be carefully supervised. Jake Brenner was mentioned as a possible supervisor. A survey might include water well locations, depths, flow, and the results of any water testing. The consensus was that if a supervisor can be identified, the application for an intern should be prepared.

A general discussion of the Aquifer Protection Law (prepared by Cynthia Bowman) ensued, interspersed with discussion of future GDTF (and public) responses to fracking in NY State. The possibility of having a lawyer look at the law was mentioned; Dietrich will look into the availability of Town funds.

Announcements and Updates.

Next meeting on 13-Mar, 7pm in Town Hall.

Todd Miller presentation (Danby Aquifer) on 21-Feb, 7pm, Town Hall

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.