

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

Present:

K.Halton, R.Dietrich, S.Beeners, K.Morris, T.Crane (secretary), A.Klingensmith.

Meeting brought to order at 7:12pm.

Chairperson was not present. Klingensmith chaired the meeting, announcing that the major topic would be the proposed Aquifer Protection Law.

Halton described plans to hold public information meetings about the proposed law. Due to its complexity and technical specificity, the focus might be more on the background and general idea behind the law than on a few of the specific details.

A possible review of the law by Tom Shelley, a retired environmental health specialist at Cornell, was discussed. Along the same lines, a possible re-contact with Cornell Law Professor Keith Porter.

The question of, "Which parts of Danby Should Be Covered?" came up. Should the law apply to the currently known aquifers (and recharge areas), or to the entire Town? Several arguments can be made in favor of including the entire Town:

- "Your water is my water."
- Runoff water and bedrock aquifers from large, unstudied parts of Danby contribute to the water resources in the studied areas. There is no clear border.
- Recent studies have demonstrated the existence of numerous geologic faults, all around Danby. These provide paths for water that cross other geologic formations.
- Lots of Danby hasn't been studied. The precautionary principle suggests that they need as at least as much protection as the studied areas.

Bottom line of the "which parts" question is that it becomes a legal question: is a Town-wide law possible?

Halton will contact Shelley. Beeners will contact Guy Krogh, the Town Attorney.

Announcements and Updates.

Next meeting not scheduled, pending discussions on Aquifer Law.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.