

**Danby Planning Board  
Minutes of Meeting  
November 15, 2011**

**Present:**

Joel Gagnon  
Robert Roe  
Steve Selin  
Naomi Strichartz

**Excused:**

Anne Klingensmith  
Ted Melchen

**Others Present:**

Secretary	Pamela Goddard
Code Officer	Sue Beeners
Town Board	Leslie Connors, Kathy Halton, Ric Dietrich
Public	Ted Crane

**Planning Board Chair, Robert Roe opened the Planning Board meeting at 7:05pm.**

**Broadband Pilot Program**

Dietrich gave a presentation about a proposed project to bring wireless broadband internet connection to one or two neighborhoods in Danby. He outlined the importance of this project to the community. There is a major need for access to high-speed internet for students and from home businesses. Clarity Connect has proposed a test project involving two “telephone pole” towers. They would be about 55 feet high. Research is being conducted to find one or more locations that would serve about 120 households. This first stage would be run as a trial project for neighborhood feedback.

The PB asked general questions about the technology and the economic model for how this would work. Dietrich and Crane answered to the best of their ability. Several aspects of the system are still unknown, as this is in the research and development stages.

Target maps should be available by the end of November. The target basic fee for service is \$30 a month. Development funds may be available from transmittal fees collected in phone bills and/or stimulus money from the state. Possible locations include upper Bald Hill or Comfort/Lieb Road and Durfee Hill Road. There was a question as to the ultimate goal of the project and how this would be accomplished. Dietrich stated that this first stage is a trial to discover how this technology will work in Danby. The ultimate goal is to reach 98% of Danby households.

Dietrich asked the Planning Board for permission to move ahead with this exploring this prospect. Beeners expressed the view that, should this become a reality, approval could be granted by special permit following a public hearing before the Planning Board. The PB expressed preliminary approval for on-going research into this project.

**Consider Recommendation for PB Vacancy**

The PB discussed timing for making a recommendation. PB agreed to delay a decision until after the December 5 Town Board meeting, when the final candidate for the vacancy will be interviewed. Some members of the PB will attend that meeting. A recommendation will be sent to the TB shortly afterwards.

### **Consider Canceling December Meeting Date**

There was a discussion about whether to meet in December and the date for the first meeting in January 2012. There is no pressing business for a December meetings. Due to proximity of the holidays, it was agreed to cancel the December meeting. It was suggested that the PB do "homework" with the Municipal Planning Tools document in place of a meeting.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 31 OF 2011 - CANCEL MEETING DATE**

**Resolved**, that the Planning Board of the Town of Danby will not hold a December 2011 meeting.

**Moved by Strichartz, Second by Selin.**

**In Favor: Gagnon, Selin, Strichartz, Roe**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 32 OF 2011 - SET MEETING DATE**

**Resolved**, that the Planning Board of the Town of Danby schedules its first 2012 meeting on January 19, 2012.

**Moved by Gagnon, Second by Strichartz.**

**In Favor: Gagnon, Selin, Strichartz, Roe**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Gagnon suggested various amendments to the minutes. Minor corrections were made to clarify some topics, including clarification of watersheds which drain into Cayuga Lake.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 33 OF 2011 - APPROVE MINUTES**

**Resolved**, that the Planning Board of the Town of Danby approve the minutes of October 27, 2011, as amended.

**Moved by Selin, Second by Strichartz.**

**In Favor: Gagnon, Selin, Strichartz, Roe**

### **Planning Board SGEIS Response**

Selin presented a draft statement for PB review. These comments were edited and refined by the PB through an extensive discussion. The PB SGEIS comments focused particularly on the importance of local zoning ordinances and aquifer protection.

The letter will be formatted for PB signatures. Copies will be sent to the same list as was used for the Town Board SGEIS response.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 34 OF 2011 - APPROVE SGEIS LETTER**

**Resolved**, that the Planning Board of the Town of Danby approves transmittal of a letter to the NYS DEC regarding the revised draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement related to high volume horizontal fracturing for natural gas.

**Moved by Gagnon, Second by Selin.**

**In Favor: Gagnon, Selin, Strichartz, Roe**

**Roe needed to leave and, so, passed chair of meeting to Strichartz at 8:34pm.**

## **County “Municipal Tools” Document, “Round II” Zoning Updates, and Comprehensive Plan Review**

There was a discussion about a “Municipal Tools for Addressing Potential Gas Drilling Impacts” document generated by Tompkins County Planning and the Gas Drilling Task Force of the Tompkins County Council of Government. Halton spoke to the usefulness of this checklist. She suggested that this would be a good tool for the next round of zoning related to high impact industrial activity and future planning of a general nature. Connors reported that the Town Board is requesting a timeline for when different aspects of Comprehensive Plan and Zoning review will be accomplished. This document could be a helpful tool for organizing that process. Connors pointed out that the zoning prohibition and amendment to the Comprehensive Plan was only “step one.”

Discussion and clarification of the next round of zoning amendments and the complete review of the Comprehensive Plan was included in the discussion of the “Municipal Tools for Addressing Potential Gas Drilling Impacts” document. There was clarification of what changes need to be addressed in zoning. Some suggestions in the “Municipal Tools” document have already been accomplished in Danby. There was clarification of the fact that other efforts are still to be done. The Planning Board secretary will attempt to distribute this document in electronic form for the board’s December “homework.”

Selin presented a list, informed by information from the Town Attorney, of initiatives which are legally available to municipalities to protect themselves from negative impacts of industrial activity. There was particular interest in Noise/Light/Air Quality standards and Pipeline/Gathering Station regulations. These would be the most useful areas for immediate effort. Beeners volunteered to request quick references for sample ordinances from the town attorney. Once she has these citations she will forward the information to the PB.

### **Adjournment**

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm.

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Pamela S Goddard, Planning Board Secretary