

Town of Danby Planning Board
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Thursday April 21, 2016

DRAFT

PRESENT:

Joel Gagnon
Anne Klingensmith
Frank Kruppa
Jim Rundle
Jody Scriber
Steve Selin
Naomi Strichartz

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Town Planner C.J. Randall
Town Board Leslie Connors
Recording Secretary Kelly Cecala
Pubic Ted Crane

The meeting was opened at 7:03 pm.

(1) CALL TO ORDER/AGENDA REVIEW:

C.J. Randall provided copies of the agenda. Strichartz said that Ted Melchen was in the hospital and requested that the Planning Board purchase a get well card for him. Gagnon suggested to pass a resolution of thanks as well.

(2) WELCOME NEW PLANNING BOARD MEMBER:

Jody Scriber is a newly appointed member of the Planning Board and replaced Ted Melchen's expired term.

(3) PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

There were no comments from the public during Privilege of The Floor.

(4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Kruppa commented that Ted Melchen voted at the January and February meetings, however he was not an active member of the Planning Board at the time. The Planning Board agreed to leave Melchen's name on the minutes, as a true record of what happened, but with a notation that his vote did not effect the outcome of any of those decisions.

Strichartz requested to strike the following statement from the February minutes which in her opinion was misrepresented and inaccurate - "*She (Strichartz) said that everyone that has come in (to Danby) has moved to the area recently.*"

Rundle suggested to strike a statement from the February minutes because it does not make sense - "*Mr. Casper will be back in February.*" He added that there was no March meeting and Mr. Casper was not present tonight.

MOTION - Approve January Minutes

Moved by Gagnon, Second by Rundle

In Favor: Gagnon, Rundle, Selin, Kruppa

Abstain: Klingensmith, Strichartz, Scriber

The motion passed

MOTION - Approve Amended February Minutes

Moved by Strichartz, Second by Gagnon

In Favor: Gagnon, Klingensmith, Rundle, Selin, Strichartz, Kruppa

Abstain: Scriber

The motion passed

(5) TED MELCHEN

Kruppa will be purchasing a get well card for Ted. Strichartz said that cards should be sent to the hospital. Kruppa asked if a resolution should be passed recognizing Ted's contribution on the Planning Board.

MOTION - PASS A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Moved by Gagnon, Second by Strichartz

In Favor: Gagnon, Klingensmith, Rundle, Scriber, Selin, Strichartz, Kruppa

The motion passed

RESOLUTION NO.3 OF 2016 - RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR TED MELCHEN

Resolved, that the Planning Board of the Town of Danby formally acknowledges and extends its appreciation to Ted Melchen for his many years of service.

Moved by Gagnon, Second by Strichartz

In Favor: Gagnon, Klingensmith, Rundle, Scriber, Selin, Strichartz, Kruppa

The motion passed

(6) TOWN BOARD LIAISON REPORT:

Connors reported on a presentation that Kris Gardner gave about the County Unification Program and the money that was available from the Cooperative Extension. Connors said that Gardner gave ideas on how the available money can be used; examples included new signs and planting native plants along the road, at special sites (i.e. Jennings Pond) and near welcome signs.

Connors said the acquisition of the property next door was still being worked on but that an actual offer had not been made. Klingensmith asked why the Town wants to buy it? Randall replied that it stemmed from the community's support to the hamlet sustainability plan. She said the idea was to purchase parcels like this and make it useful for the Hamlet Center.

Connors said that the Town Board was still deciding on whether or not the Highway Superintendent position should be a hired position or an elected position.

Connors reported that there was a special meeting to discuss PDZ 10 and that the Town was currently completing SEQR on the project. Connors also said that the Town Board went through the list of uses, line by line, and made some changes. Randall added that the Planning Board can submit comments during the scoping of PDZ 10.

Connors reported that there were three (3) vacant BZA seats that need to be filled and the application process was under way. Gagnon said an advertisement would be featured in the Danby News.

(7) PLANNING & ZONING REPORT:

Gagnon asked Randall for an update on the Planning Board's recommended Subdivision Regulations. Randall said the Town Board received the Amendments but that Steve Winkley, who has been working on the Ground Water Protection Law, also proposed Subdivision Amendments as it would pertain to new developments. As a result the Town Attorney, Guy Krogh, would like to see a full revision of the Subdivision Amendments including Major Subdivision.

Randall reported on the agricultural easements that are available through Ag & Markets. She said there is a beef rancher in town who has applied for an agricultural easement on his property near Caroline. Randall said that she has advocated for this, on behalf of the town, with county planning and will do everything possible to help support the application. Randall added that it would permanently take this parcel out of play for development and that the easement would be held by New York state.

Randall said that Verizon Wireless is planning to build a telecommunications tower at the American Legion on 96B and is in the process of submitting a development application. Randall suggested doing a full Subdivision review at next month's meeting which would also include a 45 minute presentation on SEQR.

(8) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REPORT:

Randall conducted a "brain writing" activity with the Planning Board members. She asked them to write down their answers to six (6) over arching broad questions

about Danby. Randall will be summarizing the responses into a word cloud image which she will present at the next meeting. Randall also provided the members with current copies of the Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan.

Selin said that the concept of assessment had come up periodically and that it encourages farms to get caught up because the people can't afford their taxes anymore. Selin commented that if it were only up to the Town then some of the easements could be used to help those farms. Strichartz said that she didn't think it was the Town's right anymore. Gagnon said that the easements are a state mandate and that the land must be valued at market value.

Selin wondered what the Planning Board could do to influence those decisions on ag-assessments? Selin commented that he believed there was a lot going on in the county assessment office that was encouraging development but that people are not paying attention to. Selin suggested writing a letter to the county assessment office asking them to take into account the agricultural uses on the land. Gagnon added that it should also go to the legislature. Selin offered to write a draft letter for the Planning Board to review.

(9) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Kelly Cecala, Planning Board & Board of Zoning Appeals Recording Secretary