

**Danby Town and Planning Boards  
Planning Meeting Minutes  
February 22, 2010**

**Present:**

Supervisor: Ric Dietrich  
Councilpersons: Leslie Connors, Kathy Halton, Dan Klein  
Planning Board: Anne Klingensmith, Naomi Strichartz, Ted Melchen  
Town Clerk: Pamela Goddard  
Code Enforcement: Susan Beeners

**Members of the Public:**

Joel Gagnon, Ted Crane, Ronda Roaring

**Overview of the Planning Discussion:**

Members of the Town Board and Planning Boards met to continue the discussion, begun during the joint meeting on January 21, about objectives for 2010. More discussion and research needs to take place before consensus is reached on any one topic from the previous meeting.

Each board member had an opportunity to express their interests and concerns and to ask questions of each other. A lengthy list of objectives and needs emerged from this discussion. It was agreed a “raw list” of these objectives, with the addition of other existing work lists, would best constitute the minutes for this meeting.

There is interest on both boards for this type of discussion to happen periodically through the year. The Town Board and Planning Board will meet again to condense and prioritize these lists on Thursday, March 25 at 7pm.

**Planning Meeting List:** *This list is not in any order of priority*

- Open Space conservation needs - non-regulatory approaches to protection
  - Difference between Open Space and Sense of Open Space
- Mapping Unique Natural Areas and Critical Environmental Areas
- Reinvigorate the Comprehensive Planning Task Force
  - Proposal for Conservation Advisory Council
  - “How to Keep Your Land” forum/education - brochure and web site
- Follow up the Right to Farm Law - zoning questions
- Hamlet Goals (housing rehabilitation, appropriate zoning)
  - What is appropriate to be done and how can it be accomplished
- Revisit White Hawk development (mixed use area/cottage industry)
- Housing Rehabilitation/energy conservation
  - Retrofitting/weatherizing old housing stock

Possible grant/support money for building/improving new housing at this time  
 Neighborhood development/community development  
 (“What will fill the infrastructure?” Activities and quality of life.)  
 Better mapping for Zoning - visual guide, comparison between current and proposed  
 Owning the data to generate maps  
 Zoning to maximize rural character of Danby; rules not rigid and could be modified  
 Increase lot size  
 Increase setbacks  
 Introduce element of “invisibility” through incentives  
 Attaching people to jobs - recruiting volunteers/getting people involved  
 Taking the community pulse via the Listening Project  
 Complete projects already in process, e.g.: Aquifer Study  
 Sustainable energy education (for residents) and initiatives  
 Support/enhance Public Transportation  
 Localization of energy and food production  
 Land-bank/grass pellet project and community gardens  
 Re-use of the old Danby school  
 Senior Housing  
 Gas Drilling Issues  
 Wind energy/alternative energy - Wind Power Legislation  
 Base-line energy survey of the Town to promote efficiency  
 Beautification and the removal/remediation of “eyesores” at major intersections

**Dave Mastroberti’s ideas:**

“I propose an expansion of the Beautification committee. My thought is to create a Danby Landscape Development and Beautification Committee with a goal of improving the appearance of our roadsides and offering support to the new town park. We would secure some funding for and plant new trees, shrubs and flowers, help interested home owners with brush clearing by roadsides, possibly helping with trail improvements and in general make the "roadscape" more attractive.

Other future goals could be some tasteful street lights within the hamlet, banners on telephone poles and a community vegetable garden. We could offer workshops on pruning, planting, turning some mowed lawn to meadows, etc. This committee can supply a monthly report of the projects and /or get your input as desired. I am not sure if this should be connected with the Planning Board or Community Council. We will work out the details.”

**Gas Drilling Task Force - Kathy’s List:**

1. Someone to keep track of meetings, events, forums, etc., that relate to gas drilling, and send them to Ted Crane to circulate on the GDTF Email list.
2. Someone to follow the legislative efforts going on now at the state and federal level - either lobbying

visits, letters, Democratic party announcements, etc. and to let the GDTF know, at the meetings, what is happening.

3. Someone to coordinate the “Listening Project” when it gets going. Right now, I am corresponding with Autumn Stocheck about training for a Danby group and will continue doing that.

4. A person to function as a liaison with the Town Board, and perhaps the Town Planning Board, to keep the Task Force updated about what they're doing in terms of new ordinances, laws, etc. (There are two town board members that are currently on the Task Force who could do that.)

5. Various people to volunteer to go to the various meetings or public forums, and report back to the Task Force at the next meeting.

6. Critical environmental areas - some people to look at maps in Town Hall and identify areas that may be more vulnerable to gas drilling effects (wetlands, etc.) and start the process of having them designated as Critical Environmental areas. You might want to look through Jennifer Tiffany's survey results, as well.

7. Several people to do research into certain aspects of gas drilling (e.g. long-term environmental effects) and perhaps organize a forum for Danby in the spring.

8. Studies of the larger picture in gas drilling, with reports to the Task Force, and possible use in public education.

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Pamela S Goddard, Town Clerk