

Danby Conservation Advisory Council  
Minutes  
7 December 2011

Present

Members:

Mary Ann Barr, Jake Brenner, Joel Gagnon, Tom Gavin, Dan Klein

Non-Members:

Ronda Roaring

Call-to-Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Joel Gagnon at 7:40 p.m.

CAC Annual Report

Gagnon had sent out a copy of his draft of the report via email. He passed out copies of it and of an alternative wording to the "Open Space Characterization" section written by Brenner. Roaring made a number of requests for additions and clarifications to the report, including a request to clarify the last sentence of the paragraph titled "Open Space Characterization" and an explanation of why the CAC had not accomplished more during 2011. Klein stated that he saw no need to clarify the sentence or to explain what had not been accomplished during the year. He moved that the report be approved with the addition of a financial report that he volunteered to prepare with the assistance of Laura Shawley. Barr seconded the motion. Unanimous.

Paper copies will also be provided to the Danby Town Board prior to 22 December 2011 so that it can be accepted by the Town Board at that time. Once accepted, a copy of the report will be posted on the Town's website and sent to the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Sustainable Tompkins Award

Klein mentioned that Sustainable Tompkins has announced that it will be awarding the CAC a "Signs of Sustainability" certificate. The showcase for this honorific award will take place from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on 11 December 2011 at the Women's Community Building in Ithaca.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

Barr moved and Brenner seconded that the minutes be approved as written. Unanimous.

Other Business

Barr stated that she has some leads on potential pro-bono lawyers. She also presented a revamped tag paragraph for the news media to use in articles about the CAC. She also wants a photo and more written copy in the CAC brochure.

Gavin stated that he has been reading the book on establishing conservation easements. He is concerned about the cost of easements. He also stated that he felt that the CAC should attempt to match land with criteria for the type of land the Town should accept but that these criteria haven't been established yet. A spirited debate ensued re criteria with no outcome. Gagnon stated that the Town should protect as much

land as possible. Barr and Roaring concurred. Gavin said that he is still worried about "cost." Klein brought up a landowner who had approached the CAC about a conservation easement earlier in the year. In general, the group thought that this might be a good first easement for the Town to take on. Klein volunteered to contact the landowner and request a tour of the property.

#### Application Deadline

Klein and Barr stated that they have submitted letters requesting reappointment to the CAC. Gagnon has yet to submit his. The deadline for applying is 18 December 2011.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for 23 January 2012 at 7:30 p.m. at the Danby Town Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronda Roaring, Secretary pro tem