

**Danby Conservation Advisory Council
Minutes of Regular Meeting
December 5, 2012**

Present:

Joel Gagnon
Tom Gavin
Dan Klein
Mary Woodsen
Jake Brenner

Meetings

We agreed that our meetings would continue on the 4th Monday of the month, The next meeting will be January 28, 2013. Dan said he will not be present for that meeting.

Member Recruitment

We discussed membership of the CAC. Tom's term is up and he will not be reapplying. Mary's and Jake's terms are up and they will be reapplying. We discussed some potential new members who we will contact directly. Also, openings are being advertised in the Danby Area News.

Annual Report

The Annual Report is being written up by Joel. Dan made a motion, seconded by Jake, to authorize Joel to finish the report to be submitted to the Town Board and the DEC.

The motion passed 5-0.

Other Business

Jake presented 3 maps, using 21 criteria to rate individual parcels in Danby as to their threat of development, the benefits of conserving them, and a map showing the total of their desirability to be conserved. Jake and his student Ian were congratulated for creating this tool. We had a lot of discussion of particular criteria. We mostly agreed about the criteria, with the possible exception of 'remoteness', which is currently defined as distance from the state highways.

Jake would like to make these maps available to the public, with two cautions to consider. We don't want residents to feel like their land is being 'targeted' for something. Also, even though the information contained in the maps is all public, we need to take people's privacy into consideration.

Although the underlying algorithms cannot be changed easily at this time, we can tweak the weight that has been assigned to each variable.

Joel brought us up to date on conversations he has had with the Finger Lakes Land Trust regarding questions we had about their easement template. We again talked about the Land Trust's idea that it is better in the long run to make provisions for a house to be on a parcel. Dan asked if we could investigate if this is based on actual court cases or if this is just based on anticipated future problems.

Another question we had concerned snowmobiles and how they should be treated in easements. They generally don't contribute to land erosion as wheeled motor vehicles do, but they have a noise impact. The Land Trust does not include snowmobiles in their easements intentionally.

The Land Trust does not address the issue of farmworker housing in easements and suggested we contact Scenic Hudson if we would like to see how they have incorporated farmworker housing.

Submitted by Dan Klein