

Community Foundation  
Listening Learning Partnerships  
Danby Town Hall  
Thursday, April 28, 2011  
Meeting Notes

7 Newfield residents (Julie Kulik, Dan Klein, Bob Strichartz, Ric Dietrich, Ted Crane, Kathy Halton, Asher Hockett) in attendance and George Ferrari from the Community Foundation

**What are two or three of the most pressing current issues for your community?  
Which of these issues have emerged within the last year?**

Lack of high speed internet connectivity, especially in the southern part of Danby

Newly installed computers at town hall, hopes for these bringing more people into the town hall

Issues of land management and water shed issues, environmental concerns

Had a great recent town wide meeting with wonderful participation from many people

Need better ways to fund all types of programs for youth, recreational, social, academic

How to increase the value and support of volunteerism, from where is the next generation of volunteers going to come? Need more people and more volunteers and more encouragement of volunteers for food pantry but especially for the volunteer fire department

Youth employment issues

Able to convert heating at town highway barn to wood burning boiler

Water issues with a thin aquifer

West Danby has its own water system which will need to be upgraded soon

**Have the current economic conditions led you to think differently about your community's future than you have in the past?**

Gas drilling economic pressures

Seeking more energy efficient and environmentally sensitive sources of power

Challenge of being a transition town, working away from fossil fuels

Existing conflict from an older good ole boys network to young families and liberals, though everyone does appreciate the rural character of the town, there are divisions

Need to limit sprawl and use zoning, which is distrusted, to encourage development close to the hamlet of Danby, though concerns about available water for such development pressure

Considering a local land trust for the town to preserve every piece of land, not just the jewels, expenses include surveying, legal and on-going protection of the land parcels

Want to reduce dependency on county and state government funding and cutbacks

Liked the idea of a Town of Danby Field of Interest Fund at the Community Foundation

**Are you exploring any alternatives which you might not have considered before now?**

**Have conditions caused any change in strategic direction? Mission?**

Newly created Conservation Advisory Council to the Town Board

**What is the most effective grant received that assisted the people of Danby? What made it different from others?**

CAP grant was for some concerts but group desired to have more regular community celebrations or arts events to help build community

**If you were to describe the "ideal" grant from the Community Foundation in the next 3 - 6 months, how would it be structured? What would it be for?**

**To whom does the leadership in your community look for help in difficult times - both for assistance in planning for the future, fundraising ideas, operational assistance?**

**Are there sufficient resources in the community to assist you? In what ways could the Community Foundation be more helpful?**

Danby Community Council very active with Cooperative Extension youth services, and local scholarship fund with matching grants to help parents access services for their children

Danby Land Bank

Lease unused land to co-op, use to produce agriculture which creates biomass fuel, receive agriculture exemption, lower taxes, grow a locally produced energy source, perhaps even create a pellet making plant trying to help create local heating pellets

Population of 3,000

Danby Park, is in financial trouble, with debt, in danger of losing the land, unable to raise matching dollars to access NYS Parks grant, owned by a private park association, not the Town of Danby, a community center was proposed for the park

Role of community center somewhat fulfilled by the Danby Reading Room in the Town Hall and the fire hall but neither are that well used and not perceived as a real community center

Since the loss of the store and earlier, the school, there is no center or gathering place

Youth scatter to various schools including South Hill, Newfield and Spence Van Etten