

Guide to the **Sarah Elbert/Danby Collection**

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See the Hart Family Photograph Collection FBO-0167.1-.7 for more information.

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COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

This collection contains the records of Sarah Elbert, resident of the Town of Danby and member of the Town of Danby Board of Zoning Appeals. It documents her involvement in the dispute between Danby residents and Unity House over a proposed residence on Nelson Road in March of 2015. Unity House runs programs in six central New York counties providing “transitional and permanent housing, respite care, and rehabilitative and employment services for individuals with mental health illnesses, developmental disabilities, and/or chemical dependencies from which they are recovering” (unityhouse.com). The dispute arose when it was discovered that Unity House intended to house two Level 3 sex offenders in the residence, which was located within a mile of a school and pre-school. Neighbors immediately rallied in protest, with a yard sign campaign and two emotionally charged town meetings. In response, Unity House determined not to house the two sex offenders in the Nelson Road residence, and State Senator James Seward (R-Oneonta) drafted legislation to require the disclosure of potential group home residents’ sex offender status.

The collection also contains materials pertaining to Ms. Elbert’s service on the Town of Danby Board of Zoning Appeals from 2013 to 2015, including meeting minutes, appeal documents, and conference materials.

This collection includes news articles, notes, and correspondence pertaining to the dispute between the Nelson Road Neighbors and Unity House; an article on the standoff between the Ithaca Police Department and David Cady in Danby; the minutes and records from the Town of Danby Zoning Board of Appeals 2013-2015; the 2011 Town of Danby Comprehensive Plan; and materials from a regional zoning board conference.

CONTAINER LIST

News articles from the Ithaca Journal, Ithaca Times,

Folder 1

Ithaca Voice, & Legislative Gazette pertaining to the
Unity House Dispute; photograph of lawn sign

Correspondence & notes pertaining to the Unity House
dispute Folder 2

Petition to NY Assembly & material pertaining to NY Senate
bills 2885 & 5153 Folder 3

“After the Danby Standoff,” *Ithaca Times* Folder 4

Town of Danby Comprehensive Plan 2011 Loose in Box

Town of Danby Zoning Board of Appeals 2013 Minutes Folder 5

Town of Danby Zoning Board of Appeals 2014 Minutes Folder 6

Town of Danby Zoning Board of Appeals 2015 Minutes Folder 7

Regional Conference for zoning & planning board members
10/2014 Loose in Box

“Ethical Considerations for Planning Boards and
Zoning Board of Appeals” Folder 8

Danby BZA Agenda Material, D. Town Rd, Candidates
For BZA 1/17/16 Hall Folder 9

3/6/15 DZB David Hall to Joe Schwartz re- “collusion”
Of Hall, TTB Folder 10

Zoning, Danby 4/23/16, Paul Hansen, Zoning enf/ Sarah Elbert re: Troy Rd	Folder 11
Danby Zoning 2016/News Clippings of “Danby Dev. Project,” and 3 BZA members resigning	Folder 12
Danby, 2016 Laws on Email Users	Folder 13
Amie Hamlin April 2015 BZT Zoning Danby	Folder 14
Hamlin/Cornwell BZA	Folder 15
Danby & Troy Rd/Bailey Homes/Zoning 2011	Folder 16
Guide to Planning & Zoning Laws of New York State/ Zoning Board of Appeals Overview/James A. Coon Local Gov’t Technical Series/Zoning & Planning NYS Town Law /General Criteria	Folder 17
Quizzes	Folder 18
NY Land Use Training & Certificate School Tutorial I- Zoning: The Basics	Folder 19
NY Land Use Learning Program for Local Officials Tutorial II: Comprehensive Planning	Folder 20

NY Municipal Insurance Reciprocal Land Use Training Program- Tutorial III: Subdivision Approval	Folder 21
NY Municipal Insurance Reciprocal Land Use Training Program- Tutorial IV: Site Plan Regulations & Approvals	Folder 22
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