

Focus Panel
April 18, 2012

Members Attending: Nate Harvey, Tom Stevens, Judi Salsburg-Taylor, Scott Battle, Jude Ellis, Lon Chase, and Sandy Riker, secretary

Information Shared:

Scott Battle provided the website for Bradford County, Pa as www.bradfordcountypa.org as a resource for panel members to view.

Jude Ellis recommended a book written by Shamus McGraw "End of Country". It is written by a research editor about his family 200 acre farm in Pa, and their interactions with high volume hydrofracking.

Tom Stevens advised the Board that on April 24, 2012 Tom Wilber will be reviewing his book "Under the Surface" about fracking, fortunes and the Marcellus Shale at the U of R. He also mentioned David Slotje would be at Hobart April 25th to do a presentation on Zoning Laws related to the high volume hydrofracking.

Judi Taylor provided background material on Anthony Ingrafina a Professor of Geology/Hydrology at Cornell University.

Nate Harvey provided an article from the Democrat and Chronicle regarding the proposed gas lease between Tioga County landowners and a Texas based energy company who would be using liquefied petroleum gas rather than water. Propane Fracking would require no water or chemicals. It would be more expensive for the gas companies but it would not be subject to the state's ongoing hold on permitting for high-volume hydraulic fracturing. A question was raised if this should be included in the moratorium? Tom said the moratorium can be amended at a later date if need arises.

With Regard to the Recommendation from the County regarding the 2nd moratorium: Sandy said she had sent the recommendation to Bill Kenyon for review and input and the Town Board also has the information to review before the next Town Board meeting. Judi asked if there would be a public hearing at the next T.B. meeting and Tom said no. The Board would review the recommendation and moratorium and then set a public hearing when they were ready to act upon the moratorium itself. In the comments by County there was a question: Can the Town Board issue a use variance in the absence of a NYS permit? The Focus Panel would suggest to the Town Board that a statement be added to the moratorium stating: **The Town Board will not issue a Use Variance without a NYS DEC Permit.**

Lon asked where County is in helping the towns with the issue of high volume hydrofracking. He was under the impression that they were working on developing a model law for the towns to use. The Panel was advised that the Supervisor has requested County to move forward with providing assistance to the towns but it does not seem to be a high priority for them. Nate asked Sandy to contact the other municipalities and invite their advisory panel members to a joint meeting in May so we can provide a unified effort in asking county for help. Nate asked that we work on obtaining laws and moratoriums from the other communities for comparison with our project. Judi Taylor will contact the Town of Jerusalem for a copy of the zoning

regulations they have put in place. Scott Battle will work on obtaining a copy of the Dryden regulations, and Sandy will contact the town of Geneva for a copy of their law banning the practice of high volume drilling.

Open Forum

Jude Ellis shared her draft letter to the residents of the town with regard to our proposed Open Forum meetings for the purpose of educating as many of the community as possible about High Volume Hydrofracking and its associated processes. The Panel reviewed it and Jude will rework the letter with their suggestions. Tom Stevens said the Assessor will have a new mailing list in May for the 1500 parcels in the town. He suggested we have County Printing do the mailing labels for this document. It was suggested that we post the letter on the bristolfrackinformation@gmail.com which raised the concern about Judy being the only one with access to the website making her a target for criticism from the community. It was suggested that all Panel members share the responsibility.

The first forum would be sometime in June and Judy was working on having A R Ingrafina to be a Speaker, if this was not possible she had a Professor from MCC and possibly one from Brockport who are versed in geology/hydrology that she would contact. Tom will try to get the Deputy Commissioner of the DEC.

Field Trip-Nate is working with Sheri Misour of the IOGA of NY group to line up a tour of a well site; this is going slowly because of the lack of drilling going on at present. It is tentatively scheduled for Friday April 27th. Nate said he would advise all as soon as possible being aware of scheduling and its limitations for various Panel members. All agreed that they would like to make contact with others in the communities where the drilling is taking place. Scott said he would like to put together a presentation as a result of the trip.

The next Focus Panel meeting will be April 25th.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Riker