

**Meeting of the Town of Lansing Gas Drilling Advisory Committee
(shall we call it LaGDAC?)**

Thursday 22 September 2011 7pm Lansing Town Hall

In Attendance:

Committee Members: Rachel Bean, Larry Beck (Chairperson), Tom Butler, Karen Edelstein, Susan Hinderliter, Bill Miller (Co-Chair), Fred Schwartz

Liaison to the Town Board: Kathy Miller

Meeting Secretary: Tom Butler

Secretary position will rotate each meeting alphabetically.

Agenda (from LB):

1. Discussion of our approval by the Town Board.
2. Discussion of a survey for election day.
3. Modes of education to the Town of Lansing residents.
4. Special circumstance permits within the Land Use Ordinance for Industrial uses
5. Water extract permits and volume allowances per day
6. Dryden Fracking Ban and law suit
7. Future meetings and topics

1. K. Miller noted that no objections were raised at the Town Board meeting on 21 Sept. for LAGDAC to become an advisory committee to the Town Board.
2. After some discussion members agreed that a survey at polling places in the town and village of Lansing on November 8 will be a worthwhile opportunity to better understand the viewpoints of Lansing residents re gas drilling using High Volume Hydrofracturing (HVHF) and how the Town should respond to this activity. RB, BM and TB will present the committee with a simple draft of a survey, for the committee to respond to. TB will start with an initial draft. Possibly advertise the survey and post survey on website before the election.
3. Some possibilities on modes of education re HVHF were discussed. These included:
 - a) Including information sources on the Town of Lansing Website section devoted to LAGDAC. Contact Dan Veaner (or Sharon Bowman). KM will do.
 - b) Having a public educational forum in the town with an expert in the field. First choice is Tony Ingraffea. If he is unavailable possibly using a video of Ingraffea with questions answered by Art Pearce from the Tompkins County Council of Governments (TCCOG) Task Force on Gas Drilling. General agreement was expressed that having T. Ingraffea in person would be the best choice. KM has been trying to contact him and will keep trying.
 - c) Informational article in Lansing Ledger. SH will check into this.
 - d) Informational article in Lansing Star. LB will check into this
 - e) Informational article in Ithaca Journal (Column by Carolyn Montague). BM will check.

- f) Possibly contact school administration about educational program. There was some concern that this may not be well received by some parents. BM will contact School Administration.
- g) If there is going to be a “Meet the Candidates” forum before the Nov. 8 elections prepare some questions to raise the gas drilling issue and attend forum to see where candidates stand.

- 4. Discussion of who issues permits for development in Lansing. Planning board issues permits but if they approve it then goes to the Town Board. Further discussion by RB on how Lansing can protect itself from negative impacts associated with HVHF. We need to inform the public by providing relevant information, and provide leadership on actively protecting the Town from negative impacts. It is clear that Town has jurisdiction on regulation of Town roads (explicitly stated in SGEIS). Zoning laws are another possibility although the amount of town control over non-drilling activities associated with HFHV is not clear. RB is in touch with Community

Environmental Defense Council (CEDC)(a pro bono public interest law firm) and will provide them with hard copies of the Town of Lansing Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Law (Lansing Land Use Ordinance). RB will contact them about meeting with LAGDAC on **Wed. 28 Sept. or Thurs. 27 October**. We will meet either in the Town Hall or the Library if it is available.

Re Town roads: Highway Superintendent (Jack French) has evaluated roads in terms of present condition and weight limits. Guy Krough suggests that an engineering study (\$6000 to \$7000) could provide “expert witness” assessment and cost of added truck traffic associated with HVHF to the Town.

Lansing has noise ordinance.

- 5. **Re Water withdrawal.** Question arose regarding who regulates Cayuga Lake water withdrawal. The thought from LB was it is DOT (Canal Authority) and/or DEC (from BM). From Lansing, water would most likely be drawn from Portland Point access. LB will check into this further.

Non lake water withdrawal (e.g. private wells, streams on private lands) may be regulated by towns according to RB.

KM said that at recent TCCOG meeting, Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) said that for Susquehanna River, private landowners can provide access and get paid to allow companies to withdraw water from River as long as it doesn't occur during minimal flow periods. Landowners are paid when water is used, not when it is withdrawn from the River. Towns do not regulate water withdrawal from the River.

- 6. Dryden Fracking Ban vs Anshaus (sic) Gas Co. First Hearing will be Nov. 4th in County Court

7. LAGDAC meetings will generally be from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm every other Thursday. However **if CEDC is willing to meet with us next week, we will meet on Wed. 28 Sept.** RB will let us know.
8. Other business: Nov. 10th or 17th Independent Oil and Gas Alliance will meet with TCCOG to answer questions from municipalities. Should we include some questions for the Town of Lansing? TCCOG will host another meeting about the SGEIS sometime in the near future.