

Town of Canadice -- Planning Board
Natural Resource Extraction Research Committee
MEETING: OCTOBER 20, 2014

Meeting began: 7:00 pm

Attending: Chairperson - Brian Kane; Members - Annette Collins, Ed Johnson, Brice June and Steve Engard.

Approved: By a vote of 5-0 at the December 15, 2014 meeting of the committee.

Agenda, notes:

1. Approval of the minutes:
 - a. Steve Engard made a motion that the minutes for the September 15, 2014 meeting be approved as submitted. Ed Johnson seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion.
2. Various opinions and questions.
 - a. Is there money in fracking right now? Canadice is so far from a possible transit point for gas that it may be uneconomical to frack for gas here. There is currently no economic pressure to push Governor Cuomo to make a decision of fracking (because gas prices are falling and there is a huge surplus). In the Town of Naples in the 1990s, there was an attempt to drill in Utica shale for gas but none was found. The thickness of shale determines whether there is gas there: the thicker shale the more likely there is gas.
 - b. Contact the minerals office of DEC in Avon to obtain maps/data about what's in the ground in Canadice. State already has significant regulations for fracking, unlike other states.
3. What are other extractable natural resources?
 - a. Ed Johnson raised this question again. From the Committee's knowledge: trees (timber harvesting); water (city is permitted to take water – town has no control over water); shale or gravel.
 - b. Brice June: Most properties in NY maintain their own mineral rights (unlike other states)
 - c. Steve Engard: Is it an issue of volume? Do we really have any volume to extract resources economically? Canadice has law that says if you disturb more than an acre, you have to tell town.
 - d. Question: should we be focused on fracking, or rather drilling for any energy? Current definition for heavy industry in town code bans this activity.
4. Next steps:
 - a. Brian Kane will call DEC minerals office.
 - b. After Brian reports his findings, the committee will look at possible links in town code to specific natural resource extraction.
 - c. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2014 at 7:00 pm at Town Hall. The Committee agrees to meet monthly for the time being.
5. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steve Engard and seconded by Annette Collins. The vote was 5-0 in favor of the motion.

Submitted by Brian Kane