

Town of York Impact Research Group  
2/28/15 Meeting Minutes

The first meeting of the Town of York Impact Research Group, facilitated by Davies Nagel, convened at the Town Hall from 10:30 a.m. until 12 noon. Participants included: Marta Nagel Burroughs, Kirk Richenberg, David Deuel, Anne Roth-Blizzard, Larry Smith, Pat Gardner, Grayce McLaughlin, Dan Hainey, Chuck Morgan, Mary Kummer, Molly Cummings and David Rose.

The meeting opened with an explanation of the origin of this group. In December, 2014, the York Town Board passed a one year Moratorium which prohibits exploration and extraction of gas and petroleum, underground storage of natural gas and disposal or treatment of natural gas or petroleum extractions or production wastes. Within the framework of the year, the town must show progress in working to determine the needs and goals for the community vis a vis possible natural gas development. A moratorium can be extended if progress has been demonstrated. Subsequent moratoria can be enacted if needed.

The first part of our plan is to develop a “snapshot” of York as it is right now. What resources are here? What is important to our community? What defines us?

The second phase would look at/research what impact the natural gas industry would have on our community and on the various aspects which were examined in step one. The third phase would involve making recommendations to the Town Board based on our work.

Our group hopes to involve local citizens who are interested in working to assess the possible impact of the natural gas industry on our community. Meetings are open to the public. Our minutes, etc. will be available on the town website.

Chuck Morgan, who was integral in Avon’s Moratorium impact study committee, spoke on their experience which resulted in a 3rd Moratorium and an updated Comprehensive Plan. Avon looked at 5 indicators:

Residential/Property Owners

Quality of Life

Economics

Land, Natural Resources and Waste Management

Government and Services

We discussed a variety of topics and possibilities including updating of the Comprehensive Plan, expansion to the county level, local home rule, county waste disposal, filtering relevant research taking into account population densities. Comparing ourselves with communities in Ohio, PA, West VA. Weighing risks and benefits.

A beneficial offshoot of this work may be better promotion of our community.

We will be taking field trips to various spots in town to study/understand.

We agreed differences of opinion are healthy. We hope to bring more citizens on board.

Other possibilities for study which would support the moratorium in York include:

Water issues

Health issues;

Traffic impacts

Environmental impacts

Property Values

Agriculture

Emergency Services

Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals

Apiaries

York Central School

Tourism: including Linwood Gardens and Abbey of the Genesee, the Genesee Greenway.

G&W RR

Geology

Other ideas???

Steering Committee Maps which are available:

Roads

Physical/Natural Features

Zoning Districts

Other Features

Water Features

Aquifers

A few people stepped forward to work on various tasks in preparation for our next meeting:

David Rose will research Avon's Town Board minutes for HVHF data

Mary Kummer will contact the Avon town clerk regarding the FOIL to obtain a copy of Avon's  
Moratorium impact study group report

Pat Gardner will be our liaison with the York Town Board

Dave Nagel will begin researching Corridors

Next meeting: Saturday March 7 10:30-noon York Town Hall. Robert Deming, Town of York  
Webmaster will be present.

Future meeting(s) 4/11/15 10:30-noon York Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Roth-Blizzard