

Who We Are

Friends of Butternuts is a non-partisan, anti-drilling, community group. We are committed to working for the common interest of our community, to protecting the assets of our town, and to banning gas drilling in Butternuts. We are concerned about the proven dangers to our health and environment that hydrofracking in the Marcellus shale would bring to our community. We support sustainable economic development, agricultural renewal, and community participation in town government.

What's Happened So Far

Since forming in the Spring of 2011, we have organized an anti-fracking petition with several dozen volunteers going door to door educating people about the dangers of fracking. In July we presented almost 800 signatures to the Town Board from citizens of all ages, backgrounds, and political parties.

Though we have asked the Town Board to take action against the threat of hydrofracking, on road use and maintenance, and other issues, they have mostly refused to do so. For that reason we registered as a multi-candidate political action committee and are actively fund raising and campaigning on behalf of candidates who will reliably represent the greater good of our community and who are prepared to work hard on our behalf.

We have endorsed candidates for Town Board, Town Board Supervisor, and Highway Superintendent and are working to help their campaigns. If you haven't met them, please take a moment to read about them.

We have also carried out a voter registration drive and have sponsored voter awareness programs, forums, and movie screenings. In September, this resulted in the largest primary election turnout for the past 5 years combined.

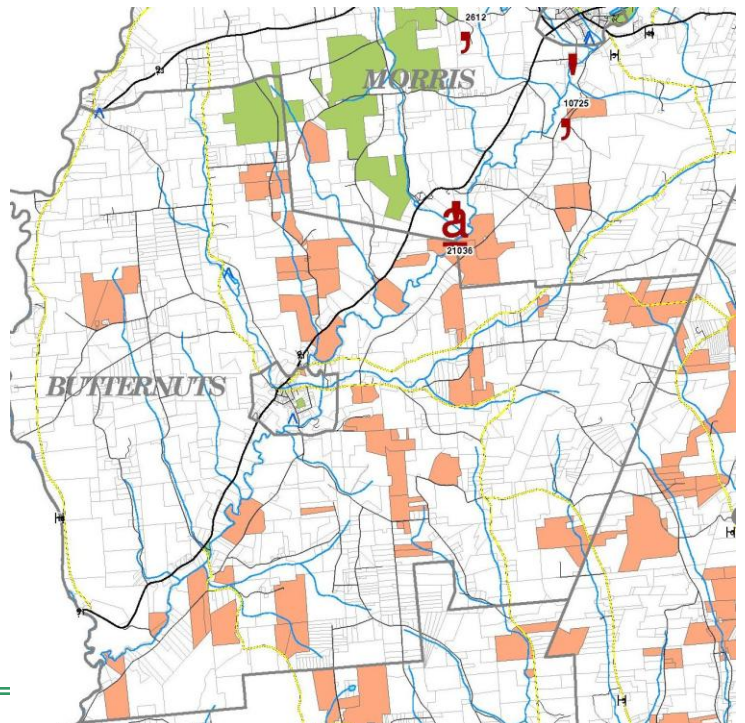
This election could be one of the most important in the history of our town. Our goal is to have an unprecedented number of voters turn out for anti-fracking candidates so that we get a functional board that will pass a moratorium on heavy industry, pass effective land use regulations, and approve budgets that make good use of taxpayer money.

But it's not going to be easy. For meaningful change, all three of our Town Board candidates must win.

Gas Leases and Property Rights

We like to think, "It's my property, and I can do whatever I want." But no one has the right to be a nuisance or harm their neighbors.

Currently, about 5% of the population of the Town has signed gas leases (see the pink areas on the map on the right). Another 5% or so belong to the Landowners Coalition and support drilling. However, the other 90% stand to lose from reductions in property values, road congestion, constant light and noise, and dramatic increases in air and water pollution.



Some helpful resources

Pennsylvania farmers speak out about drilling:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_2oU3wlyow

Advice for responding to proposed DEC regulations:

http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Fracking_Regulations

Riverkeeper

<http://www.riverkeeper.org/campaigns/safeguard/gas-drilling/>

Sustainable Otsego

<http://sustainableotsego.org/>

Otsego 2000

<http://otsego2000.org/>

VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH THE FUTURE OF OUR TOWN IS AT STAKE!

Heather Covington, Town Board



As your town board representative I want to make responsible decisions today that lead to a sustainable and successful future for Butternuts.

It is true that we face difficult times. I believe that I can represent our interests in an effective and ethical manner.

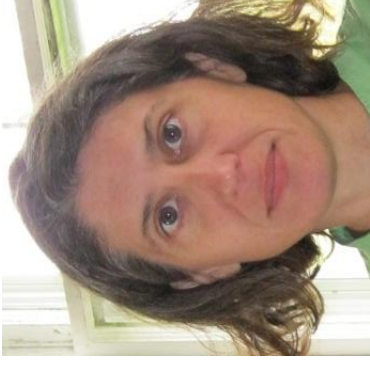
As a political science major at The George Washington University I gained an understanding of how government works, and now I look forward to putting that knowledge to use.

In 2006 I returned to Gilbertsville to make a home here with my husband, Cole. In 2007 my son Quinn was born.

I am fundamentally opposed to allowing policies that will benefit a select few while causing irreparable harm to many.

Towns like ours are rare and they are worth fighting for. It's time to start thinking about the long term – for us, our children and theirs. I will vote to ban gas drilling in our Town.

Michele Farwell, Town Board



I believe that the threat of gas drilling puts our air, our water, our land, and our property values at risk.

Over the last year I have spent many hours learning about the issues surrounding hydrofracking and educating myself on what local governments can and cannot do.

I went away to college, earned a degree in biology from Cornell, and returned to the area in 1999. For the past 11 years, I have worked as a designer and printer of historic wallpapers. I have a seven year old daughter, Maya, and I am an avid gardener and baker. My husband, Norm, is self-employed as a home energy contractor.

My family has called the Butternut Valley home for over 100 years, and I will fight to keep it a safe, beautiful, and healthy place for generations to come.

Charlie Eckelmann, Town Supervisor



For the past two years as your Town Supervisor, I have...

- used my accounting skills to bring order and accuracy to Town finances. (**Previously the Town was audited by NYS and found to be in serious violation.**)
- saved taxpayers money by changing payroll companies and replacing trucks that were costing too much in repairs.
- secured state funding for the repair of the Spring Street Bridge.
- pushed the Board to adopt a code of ethics as required by State law
- asked the Board to take action to protect the town from the threat of gas drilling
- listened carefully and encouraged community participation at meetings

I thank you all for the opportunity to serve the town and look forward to working with new Board members who share these goals.

Dear Butternuts Residents,

Our candidates are running for office because they care about our community and they want to do whatever is possible to stop fracking in Butternuts.

The pay that board members receive is as little as \$1000 per year. That puts them, in my mind, in the "volunteer" category. We can't possibly expect our candidates to volunteer hundreds of hours of their time on our behalf, and pay for their campaign costs as well.

So that's where we all come in. I am asking each of you to donate some money to the campaigns. We need money for printing, mailing, lawn signs, newsletters, brochures, and the list goes on. Please, support the campaign to ban fracking by sending a check to:

Friends of Butternuts
PO Box 126
Gilbertsville, NY. 13776.

Any amount will help, so even if you feel that you "don't have the money," stop and think about how much it's worth to you to stop the 1000 plus trucks that will invade our community every couple of weeks, for each and every well that's drilled. And remember, even a small donation can make a huge difference for all of us. We are all in this fight together.

Thanks,
Carol Ralbag

Our New Ballot

OFFICE	1 DISTRICT ATTORNEY (Vote for ONE)	2 COUNTY CLERK (Vote for ONE)	3 COUNTY CORONER (Vote for any TWO)	4 COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE 2nd District (Vote for ONE)	5 SUPERVISOR (Vote for ONE)	6 TOWN CLERK (Vote for ONE)	8 COUNCILMAN (Vote for any TWO)	9 SUPERINTENDENT OF HIGHWAYS (Vote for ONE)	10 COLLECTOR (Vote for ONE)	12
DEMOCRATIC A ★			3A James C. Magee	5A Teresa Winchester	6A Charles Eckelmann	7A Donna Dvoracek	8A Michele Farwell	9A Heather Covington		
REPUBLICAN B ★	1B John M. Muehl	2B Kathy Sinnott Gardner	3B James L. Hurley	4B Michael W. Fox, Jr.	5B James P. Powers	6B B. Jay Stebbins	8B Linda L. Gover	9B Everest E. Dibble, Jr.	10B Daniel R. Utter	
CONSERVATIVE C †	1C John M. Muehl	2C Kathy Sinnott Gardner	3C James L. Hurley		5C James P. Powers					
INDEPENDENCE E †	1E John M. Muehl	2E Kathy Sinnott Gardner	3E James L. Hurley		5E James P. Powers					
FUTURE FOR OTSEGO F †				5F Teresa Winchester			8F Michele Farwell	9F Heather Covington		
ACCOUNTABILITY G †					6G Charles Eckelmann				11G Nicki McNeil	
ABC H †						7H Jacqueline Ann Foster				
BUTTERNUTS VIEW THE JOB DONE RIGHT I †							8I Linda L. Gover	9I Chris J. Hunt		
BETTER HIGHWAYS J †								10J Daniel R. Utter		
WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN	WRITE-IN

This is an example of the new ballot that you will see on Nov. 8th. Look it over and find the anti-fracking candidates, so you will know where to mark the ballot. You have a choice of marking the candidates in the two major parties or on the independent line. We have highlighted the right boxes in yellow.

- Vote for 1 Town Supervisor – *Charles Eckelmann*
- Vote for 2 Councilmen – *Michele Farwell & Heather Covington*
- Vote for 1 County Representative – *Teresa Winchester*
- Vote for 1 Highway Superintendent – *Dan Utter*

Note: Vote for each candidate only once, even though their names appear more than once.

Need a Ride to the Polls on Election Day?
Call 783-2640 and leave a message and we will arrange a ride for you.

Volunteers Needed
We need volunteers to make "reminder" calls on Nov. 7th. If you have a few minutes, call and sign up.
Carol Ralbag– 783-2156

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Teresa Winchester
Otsego County Rep, District 2 (Butternuts, Pittsfield, Morris)



As County Representative, I will urge a ban on hydrofracking on county lands. I will also urge the Board to pass a resolution that calls on Governor Cuomo to enact a statewide ban on hydrofracking. In addition, I will direct the county's Natural Gas Advisory committee to create a website that posts current information on the impact of fracking on water, air, roads, traffic, noise, and quality of lie.

My experience includes 15 years as Executive Director of the Otsego County Conservation Association, where I worked closely with the county government and the departments of Soil and Water, County Planning, and Solid Waste Management. Some initiatives I worked on include:

- Partnering with area farms to provide incentives for barnyard water management projects
- Researching alternatives to MOSA (Montgomery-Otsego-Schoharie Solid Waste Management Authority) to solve the county's solid waste problem
- Helping to establish Household Hazardous Waste Collection day in 1998, which is now an annual event
- Promoting Otsego County's natural beauty by publishing a 40-page guide to the local outdoors

Dan Utter
Highway Superintendent



As you may know I was superintendent for 4 years previously. Like many, I have become concerned about the current state of our roads and about how money is being spent.

During my term I made it my business to keep careful records, to be frugal, to work hard, and to communicate well with residents and the Board. Some highlights of my work include:

- Secured \$840,00 in FEMA funds, which funded 14 projects from the Flood of '06
- Qualified Butternuts for \$350,000 in stimulus funds in 2009, so that the Spring Street Bridge could be rebuilt without cost to the Town
- Saved thousands of dollars by entering the Army Surplus program and purchasing a loader for \$800
- Sent out annual highway reports to town residents so that the community understood what their tax money was buying and why

I am also concerned about the threat of gas drilling. If elected I will do whatever I can to protect our roads. I will not allow toxic fracking fluid to be used as ice control on our roads in winter.

I look forward to restoring the condition of our roads and to working with the support of our new Town Board.

Water Equality Act
Clean Water for ALL of New York



NYC and Syracuse



The rest of NY State

Double Standard

Natural gas companies are exempt from the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts even though they refuse to divulge the chemicals they are using. Why are residents of Syracuse and New York City the only ones protected from these dangers?

Butternuts Anti-Fracking Time Line

June 8 – Town Board was presented with the results of the town-sponsored survey. 63% of those who responded said **NO TO GAS DRILLING**.

Results from Town Sponsored Community Meetings – **85% OPPOSED TO GAS DRILLING**

July 13 – Town Board presented with a petition to ban heavy industry (hydrofracking) signed by 800 people, 75% of the respondents.

August 23rd – Charlie Eckelmann, Town Supervisor, held a public meeting to hear residents' views on enacting a temporary moratorium on heavy industry (hydrofracking) until the new Road Regulations (that would protect our roads) are in place.

October 13th – Town Board voted down the temporary moratorium, even though over 75% of the residents speaking at the public hearing were in favor of protecting our roads until the Board had road regulations in place.

November 8th – The Town of Butternuts elects a new Board, with three anti-fracking members – Charlie Eckelmann, Heather Covington, and Michele Farwell.

January 1, 2012 – The Butternuts Town Board finally represents the wishes of the majority!

Another Double Standard

DEC Guidelines for Fishing Guides recommend that latrines and dishwashing waste be located at least 200 feet from a water source or susceptible structure or location. DEC Guidelines for gas wells state that the well must be located at least 100 feet from a house.

Fracking Myths

Myth: Gas Is Clean, Green, and Safe

FACT: There is overwhelming evidence that production of shale gas is dirtier than coal, and that ALL gas wells eventually leak, no matter how many casings are used. It is technically impossible to frack safely. Industry knows this, which is why they have fought for unprecedented legal exemptions from federal environmental regulations, including the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Additionally, putting money and resources into producing dirty natural gas means we can't develop real clean energy alternatives.

Myth: Gas Creates Jobs

FACT: Numerous studies have shown that gas drillers and other extractive industries do lasting and serious damage to communities where they operate. Job benefits are overstated and those who benefit most live elsewhere. Reports show that accidents, crime, alcoholism, drug abuse, and domestic violence all increase when drilling come to town.

Myth: Natural Gas = Energy Independence

FACT: While the gas companies claim this is about domestic energy independence, there are already plans in place to export Marcellus shale gas from the Northeast to China and elsewhere. Drilling encourages fossil fuel dependence to the benefit of Wall Street speculators and other countries while it harms local communities and our planet.

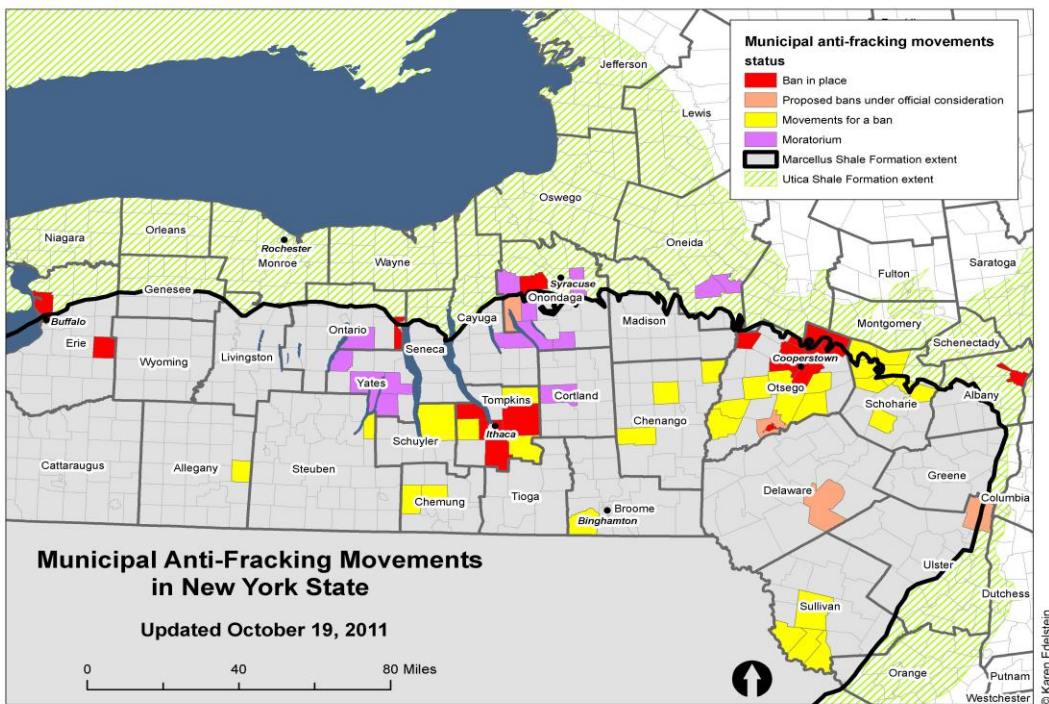
Concerned Citizens' To-Do List

Email fobutternuts@gmail.com to stay informed of upcoming events.

Remember to vote on November 8th. Tell your neighbors, friends, and family

Respond to the DEC's proposed regulations, the DSGEIS. Guidance here: http://www.sourcewatch.org/index.php?title=Fracking_Regulations

We need and welcome your contributions! Send to **Friends of Butternuts, PO Box 126 Gilbertsville NY 13776**



Myth: The DEC Will Protect Us

Fact: The DEC has a built-in conflict of interest. It is charged with protecting our natural resources and also developing them, and in this case it can't do both. By ignoring the cumulative and human health impacts of fracking, putting aside the concerns of doctors, scientists, and citizens, and instead listening to industry lobbyists, the DEC has already sided with corporations on the issue of fracking.

Myth: The Town Risks Being Sued by Industry If It Passes a Moratorium or Land Use Regulations

FACT: The threat of lawsuits is a bullying tactic. Gas companies and land coalitions are trying to scare towns out of adopting drilling bans. Should a lawsuit occur, help with attorney fees is available. Note that the DEC has specifically said it will take local land use regulations into consideration in the permitting process. Towns without such regulations will be unprotected.

"The Case of the Missing Regulations"

How To Respond to the DEC's Proposed Shale Gas Regulations

How to Use the DEC's Online Response Form

Chip Northrup

<http://tinyurl.com/dSGEIS-Responses>

How to Prepare Effective Written Responses

Kelly Brannigan, RN

Wednesday, November 2, 2011 7-9 p.m.

Templeton Hall, 63 Pioneer Street, Cooperstown

Declining Property Values

Most banks, credit unions, and insurance companies consider gas-leased properties to be an unacceptable risk.

Many loan companies have policies that deny mortgages for properties that are under gas drilling leases.

Insurance companies are balking at writing policies for leased parcels, as landowners can be liable for accidents related to natural gas drilling.

How does this affect you? Property values decline not only for those who have signed leases, but for everyone in the surrounding area.

Drilling will eventually depreciate the value of your residence, your vacation home, and any investment property you own.

If you are considering selling your property, you must consider whether you can find a buyer who is willing and able to pay cash.

According to the *New York Times* article "Rush to Drill for Natural Gas Creates Conflicts with Mortgages" (Oct. 19, 2011), one upstate credit union will only grant home loans to people who agree not to sign a gas lease while they hold the mortgage.



Health Effects on Your Body: BTEX is an acronym that stands for benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes. These are just a few of the chemicals known to be found in frack water. When ingested, these volatile organic compounds stick to fat in the body. Short-term exposure can cause confusion, rapid pulse, anemia, damage to the nervous system, and death. Long-term exposure can cause Acute Myeloid Leukemia, Secondary Aplastic Anemia, and damage to the reproductive system.

Bassett Healthcare Network issued the following statement in July of 2011:

"We hereby resolve that the hydrofracking method of gas drilling constitutes an unacceptable threat to the health of our patients and should be prohibited until such time as it is proven to be safe."

Kennedy Changes Mind

On October 20, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a specialist in environmental law who had supported fracking, wrote in the Huffington Post that he had reversed his position, stating "In pitting itself against public disclosure and reasonable regulation, the natural gas industry is once again proving that it is its own worst enemy."

Tap Water Ablaze



Read the newsletter in color! Find it online at: <http://www.gilbertsville.com/newsletter.htm>