

In 2010, several citizens of Ligonier began to educate themselves on the health and environmental effects of unconventional gas drilling (fracking) when they learned local Township officials planned to change the Zoning Map and Code to convert **Residential/Agricultural** and **Conservation Districts** into zones that would allow the industrial process, unconventional gas drilling.

Citizens first worked with the Township as an Ad Hoc committee to share information about best practices they gleaned from ordinances in other communities about the compatibility of zoning industrial gas areas.

- **CPLV** began as a grass roots effort that became a 501c3 non-profit in 2015.
- **CPLV** grew in numbers as we organized public testimony based on research-based information to present to the Ligonier Township Supervisors prior to their vote to change the zoning.
- **CPLV** also contacted scientists knowledgeable about the risks involved with fracking to speak to Township Supervisors at public hearings to support the environment and the inhabitants of the Ligonier Valley.
- **CPLV** retained Attorney John Smith, an expert in PA Zoning, to review the proposed Township Ordinance and offered suggestions to the Supervisors so the ordinance would better meet legal, safety, health, and environmental standards.
- **CPLV** applied for and received grants to share information with the community about contamination of both air and water that can be created by hydraulic fracturing and the risks posed to human health. Members created billboards, mailers, newspaper ads, letters to the Editor, and hosted programs showing documentaries on fracking happening in our region.
- **CPLV** formed an active legal committee to help us stay informed about state wide court decisions on unconventional gas drilling and guiding the legal activities of the group.
- **CPLV** has a Community Liaison, whose forty years' experience in environmental issues keeps us updated on at risk health issues, best practices in drilling, and similar issues in neighboring municipalities.
- **CPLV** members continue to mobilize our community to participate in focus groups for the Community Comprehensive Plan and continue to work to preserve the air, water, and the environment of Ligonier Valley.
- **CPLV** has expanded our Mission on zoning in **Residential/Agricultural** to include sustainable environmental issues.