

Zoning Board Meeting Notes

We are a family owned, fourth generation propane retailer in business since 1946. We provide propane delivery and service to thousands of customers in VT and upstate NY.

Our business is focused on being local, employing local people, and striving to be an important part of the communities we serve. We hope that we can work with Landgrove to establish ourselves as an integral part of the community, providing a needed product for our customers.

Propane is used for heating, water heating, cooking, clothes drying, standby generators, and commercial kitchens. Also in engine fuel, from lawnmowers, forklifts, to cars, trucks and busses.

Propane is reliable, economical, clean, domestic, safe, and renewable.

Clean burning propane lowers greenhouse gas emissions. Produces less harmful emissions than wood, oil, or gasoline. EPA's Clean Air Act, designates propane as an approved alternative fuel.

In looking at Landgroves energy plan, it speaks of clean, renewable and alternative fuels. We feel propane does and will continue to help meet these goals.

Propane has an important role in our energy future, it will take more than one energy source to meet these goals. Propane is an excellent supplement to solar, and heat pumps. Currently there are combination heat pump/propane units now being installed. 200,000 vehicles in the US are powered by propane, and growing. Blue Flame has 10 propane powered vehicles. Stratton Mt. Resort is planning on bringing 5 propane buses on line this year.

Renewable propane is increasing in production. Facilities in LA, TX, and CA are producing millions of gallons of renewable propane from bio diesel production systems. Some experts predict we can get half of the US propane requirements from renewable propane by 2040.

In the US there are 60 million users of propane. In Vermont one in three homes or businesses use propane or approximately 80,000 customers.

Propane Safety- Propane is a very safe fuel. Propane safety is highly regulated by the State of Vermont, DOT, Homeland Security, OSHA and NFPA codes and standards. We meet or exceed all safety regulations for the storage tank, trucks, installations and personnel. Safety and compliance has been, and will always be a top priority in our business.

Before a propane storage tank goes into service, a Fire Safety Analysis is required. Blue Flame has completed this in advance, which will meet the approval of the fire departments and State of VT Div. of Fire Safety.

There are approximately 13,500 bulk storage facilities in the US, with an excellent safety record. In a 9 year study by Texas A&M, there were no fatalities related to propane bulk storage facilities.

Blue Flame is willing to improve and make readily assessable a dry hydrant within 1500' of the property that will improve water to all surrounding properties, including the school, and medical clinic. This was discussed with the Fire Department at a previous meeting.

Of all residential fires per year (Average over 350,000 per yr.) propane as the first ignited material accounted for less than 1% of those.

The facts and data show that throughout the distribution chain, and to the end user propane is a very safe fuel.

We feel that the property we are discussing would be a great place for us to establish our business, and given the opportunity we will prove to our neighbors and community that we are a responsible, safe and courteous member of your Town.