

COHOCTON VOTERS II

This year you will be confronted with more choices than you have had in many an election year. The candidates running for re-election have served Cohocton in many ways for many years. We have dealt with every issue that has come before us.

We have administered a matching grant to improve Lawrence Parks Recreation Area, secured and implemented a small-cities grant to improve our North Cohocton-Atlanta water district, including free hook-ups for those who are income-eligible, followed up on the highway and drainage problem on State Route 21 and County Route 39, secured the town archives and records in a fire-proof vault, conducted a complete re-val of all town properties, sold the old Erie Railroad right-of-way to the adjacent property owners, moved the assessor's office, the building codes office, the supervisor's office, the supervisor's clerk office and the Town Court to a more spacious and handicapped-accessible location. Last, and perhaps most significant of all, we have worked for three long, hard years to bring a wind farm to Cohocton.

Wind powered electricity generation is the compellingly correct thing to do everywhere on earth where the wind blows steadily enough to support it. This is especially true in areas of the world where people live. After all, people use electricity! In the 21st century, windmills should become as common as TV antennae were in the 20th. When we begin producing electricity in the areas where it is being used, perhaps we will not need another cross-country transmission line like the one being proposed for the Hudson River Corridor.

Here in Cohocton we have a "Dedicated Dozen" of people who oppose the wind farms. By networking with like-minded people in Prattsburg, Springwater, Phelps, Hornell and the internet, they are able to round up 40 or 50 people to attend public hearings on demand. For more than a year Cohocton Wind Watch has pulled out all the stops in an attempt to slow or stop the progress of wind development in Cohocton, to no avail.

The new strategy is to take the government out of the hands of the present office holders, putting themselves in our place so they can torpedo wind power from the inside. They have not been able to accomplish this from outside the government. Make no mistake; they are turning the 2007 town election into a one-issue campaign! It is all about wind!

Knowing that this would be the case months ago, I started my own "Running on the Wind" campaign. Perhaps you have seen the growing number of "Lawn Turbines" in front of houses in Cohocton and the surrounding area. They are my re-election campaign signs. Anyone who lives in Cohocton may have a lawn turbine, free of charge, if you support me and my dedication to wind power. Anyone outside of Cohocton may purchase a lawn turbine for \$10.00. Call me at 534-5375 to order one. I will arrange to install it for you. There are 133 units spinning away as of this writing. Every one of them convey the whole idea without saying one word.

Wayne R. Hunt
Atlanta, NY

P. S. Two very significant developments have occurred in June, 07.

First, our New York State Assembly passed a bill that calls for the State to take over the windmill siting process throughout the state. It seems that they are getting nervous about the ability of towns to get this done and have our state up to 25% green energy by 2013.

Second, Iberdrola, the largest wind farm operator in the world, has purchased Energy East, the supplier of electricity for a large portion of the north-east.

Those of you who would like to reform Cohocton out of the windmill business had better raise your sights! You now have New York State and Iberdrola to reform, as well.