

2 Visions and a Proposal

People live in Cohocton for a lot of reasons. Some were born here and have land that was passed down to them over generations. Others are relative newcomers who've lived here less than 25 years, a few moving into the area very recently. **Many are farmers**; others work elsewhere and have chosen to live or retire here; and an increasing number have purchased and developed vacation property on and around our scenic hills. **Tourism is growing in the region**, while agricultural economics are becoming more difficult.

These choices represent two visions of what Cohocton is:

- For those who farm it's primarily a place of **industry** where you can support a family with hard work and careful use of the land.
- For most of the remainder, the 3-R (residential, retirement, and recreational) owners, it's a place of **rest** where you can enjoy peace and quiet in a rural atmosphere away from the city.
- Residential owners appreciate being in a small town where you can make friends and raise a family in safety.
- Many of those who have chosen to retire here were drawn by the breathless natural beauty and tranquility of the land.
- And most recreational owners searched the region for years before they found the place of their dreams in Cohocton.

Residents on both sides of the "industry" vs. "rest" division have been able to live alongside one another happily for years. There have been some rubs, of course, with farm equipment noise, hunters, ATVs, and snowmobiles, but **overall the town has been at peace**. Enter UPC Wind with its proposal to add a massive industrial wind turbine project into the mix, and we have a **formula for social disaster** that promises to benefit farmers at the expense of the 3-R owners that surround them.

Is this a winner-take-all fight? At Cohocton Free we believe there's still a path of compromise leaseholders and our Town leaders can pursue that will respect the wishes and preserve the rights of both sides. Curious? **Read our proposal** online at www.cohoctonfree.com.

