

Disenfranchisement

There may be a few letters published by the YES! group in this week's issue of *The Valley News* that complain about how badly wind project critics have been behaving at the recent site review meetings being hosted by our Planning Board. They probably won't tell you about their own misbehavior or why neighboring landowners might be upset. In fact, they may claim the whole thing is about rudeness, completely ignoring their own initiation of the confrontation.

Have you ever heard of a process called disenfranchisement?

- This is the condition you find yourself in when decisions are made by others that you should have had a say in making.
- It's what precipitated our War for Independence in 1776.
- And it's precipitating a community crisis in Cohocton right now.
- Leaseholders have been cutting sweet deals with UPC Wind for 3 years while keeping their neighbors completely out of the loop and in the dark. You don't like it? So what.
- Wayne Hunt has been challenging his neighbors to a showdown for a year, but now he's saying it openly: "This project is going forward unless you can get a Court Injunction to stop us."

It's all presented as a "done deal." But we thought this was a time for public input and decision-making. Sorry about that, folks. You get 3 minutes to speak, and then the timer goes off and it's on to the next. Are these meetings are only for show with bored listeners who just want to go through the motions so they can rubber stamp plans? Why are you shocked that the disenfranchised are upset? Wouldn't you be equally upset if the tables were turned?

At Cohocton Free we've seen enough to know that, whatever merits industrial wind power may or may not have in general, the way it's being handled in Cohocton is all wrong. And unless there is a serious change of heart soon, the courts will be the only way to remedy the situation. Please visit us online at www.cohoctonfree.com soon.

