

The People Speak

Last Thursday night the people of Cohocton spoke again. The Town Planning Board held another Public Hearing in the Elementary School, and citizens came from all over town to give their input. Probably 3/4 of those who rose to speak shared articulate concerns about specific site placements, setback distances, noise levels, unrecognized legal and insurance issues, and unresolved procedural problems.

But what did wind power supporters have to say?

- Several, ignoring their neighbors' pleas, said the project should go through as planned because it would be good for Cohocton.
- One brought a California report saying that wind turbines were 98% reliable but ignoring how unreliable the wind is.
- Another, apparently failing to grasp the very purpose of zoning laws, shared his opinion that people should be able to do whatever they want on their own land.
- Another shared her concern that control of Cohocton could end up being wrested from generational farmers and taken over by alien "recreationals" who should, by the way, be taxed much more heavily than real Cohoctonians.
- Not a single pro-wind speaker addressed the purpose of the meeting, which was to review the site planning process.

You can tell a tree by its fruit: If UPC Wind's project were truly good it wouldn't be producing bad fruit like this. A community that was once united has become deeply divided. If there was any question before, it became very clear last night that legitimate opposition is very broad, passionate, and will not go away. **Was our Planning Board listening?** Only time will tell.

At Cohocton Free we've seen enough to know that, whatever merits industrial wind power may or may not have in general, the project we're considering in Cohocton **just doesn't fit**. Pray for our leaders, and visit us online at www.cohoctonfree.com soon.

