

## **“Vague What Ifs”**

**It's interesting to watch** the public debate going on in the pages of *The Valley News*. On the one hand are those who are concerned about inappropriate **industrial wind development** in our Town. We post articles and letters at our own expense. On the other hand is the steady stream of letters being published by UPC's YES group. We wonder **how many of these letters would appear** if their writers were paying out of their own pockets. Last week "The Farmer's Wife" held forth again and accused us of trying to stall a wind project she's known about for 4 years. **It must be frustrating for leaseholders** to have to deal with citizens like us who've had less than a year to study it.

***But what have we found out in our 10 months of study?***

- UPC's plan would nearly triple the assessed property value of our Town but contribute less than 8% to our local tax base.***
- The turbines being proposed are much larger, louder, and more environmentally intrusive than UPC's descriptions would imply.***
- It's highly unlikely that wind power will ever have a significant effect on greenhouse gas production or global warming.***
- So far the process our Town leaders have chosen to follow, while well intentioned and seemingly forthright, has actually been rife with secrecy, insider-dealing, deception, and presumption.***

**Unfortunately what's been happening** in Cohocton is characteristic of industrial wind development in almost every place where proposals have been made in populated areas. **Neighbors become divided** and either the Town succumbs to the developer or other leadership takes over and works with citizens to create **a better Comprehensive Plan**.

**At Cohocton Free** we've become convinced that wind development in our community is far from ideal. Along with many others, we'd like to see Cohocton spend **more time looking at our alternatives**. If the current leadership isn't willing, then what's wrong with giving voters an opportunity to take back their own town? Interested? Check out our ideas and new "Updates" section at [www.cohoctonfree.com](http://www.cohoctonfree.com).

