

Windmill Law #2

Much has been said about the two local zoning laws that have been written so far this year to facilitate the development of an industrial wind power plant on our hills. The first, **Local Law #1**, was written in conjunction with the developer and passed quietly in January. After it was challenged in court, our Town Board moved to replace it with a stronger version, **Local Law #2**, which was written with the help of an attorney **recommended and paid for by the developer**. On November 21 the Board will be voting on the new version.

What's wrong with these Laws?

- **Both Laws have ignored, bypassed, and violated the express provisions of the Cohocton Comprehensive Zoning Plan.**
- **Both Laws were written with the guidance and specific plans of one developer, UPC Wind, in mind.**
- **The noise level, monitoring, and setback provisions in both laws are seriously deficient by international standards.**
- **Local Law #2 has redefined noise measurement to include "windmill-only" noise, rather than combined wind and turbine noise, effectively and deceptively increasing the noise limit.**
- **Local Law #2 has an "escape clause" that allows the Planning Board to waive the Law's requirements at its own discretion.**

It appears that our Board is poised to pass yet another fatally flawed Law in its **attempts to satisfy UPC Wind** and its leaseholders. This Law is so vulnerable that there will be lawsuits and legal fees, and failure in the courts is so predictable that our elected leaders are trying to get the Town to indemnify them. **Who are we kidding?**

Would you like to read more about this? Stop by and check us out online at www.cohoctonfree.com. While you're there, be sure to visit our "**Updates**" section. We appeal to our Town leaders to rescind Local Law #1, table Local Law #2, **declare a Moratorium**, and open a genuine community dialogue with *all* of our citizens, both pro and con.

