

Gone With The Wind?

As excavation proceeds on Dutch Hill, Cohocton's air is starting to fill with the crowing sound of YES supporters. How wonderful UPC's out-of-town workers are, we're told. **How marvelously** things will "stay the same" (while they change dramatically) UPC trumpets in *The Valley News* over a picture of Larrowe House, the Town Hall they've just bought with their **PSC mitigation money and promises**. In spite of increasing opposition, both locally and regionally, the obstacles seem to be falling one by one. **Only a court case and an election** stand in the way of what might be a triumphant victory for leaseholders.

But if UPC succeeds, who will the winners and losers be?

- ***UPC Wind and its investors will clearly be the biggest winners. They'll be able to take their entire \$250,000,000 project as a tax write-off, account for another half of that in tax credits, and rake in over \$13,000,000 a year in energy sales while rewarding our Town with remarkably low payments in lieu of taxes.***
- ***NYS energy consumers will clearly be losers because they (we) will be paying an additional \$134,000,000+ in energy surcharges over the next 20 years for the inflated cost of wind energy.***
- ***Leaseholders will be winners and losers. They're being promised fairly small annual lease payments (anything may be better than nothing), but they're going to be surprised at how much of the scenery, peace and quiet, and integrity of their land they'll lose.***
- ***Non-leaseholders probably stand to lose the most: in property values, beauty, tranquility, social standing, and the total eclipse of local politics by a well-financed outside industrial developer.***

Truth stands in the balance. Is wind energy the wave of the future or a passing fad and economic scam? Only time will tell the whole story. In the meantime, YES people are ready to **cast our Town to the wind**. We desperately need some checks and balances in local government - people who will take a fresh look at everything that's been done and make sure it's right. Visit us at www.cohoctonfree.com, check out our "Updates," and then help us take back our Town this November.

