

**TOWN OF NORTH HARMONY
PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025, 7:00 PM**

ROBERT YATES, SUPERVISOR	PRESENT
LOUISE ORTMAN, COUNCIL	ABSENT
RICHARD SENA, COUNCIL	PRESENT
NIKIEL ADAMS, COUNCIL	PRESENT
BRUCE M. PFEIL, COUNCIL	ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT: Robin Miller, Bookkeeper; Stephanie Gibbs, Town Clerk; Kelly Johnson, Attorney; Bradley Lawson, Zoning CEO; Kathleen & Robert Rohm; Charles Kelsey; William Ball; Candace Bowman; Jeff & Julie Reynolds; Roberta Hallenbeck; Brenda Pattison; Luke & Heather Waygood; Baker Anderson; Sally Hutchison; Sean & Cindy Strong; Doris Johnson; Mike McFarland; Dene & Pam Blakeslee; Tim Loomis; Gabriel Warner; Bren Moore; Michael Borrastero; Tim & Heather Reed; Tony Azzolina; Craig Damon; Nora Ludwig; Kerry Johnson; Karen Kearney; Jef Creager; Kevin Nickerson; Karen Engstrom; Jana Ball; Edward Bowman; Cynthia Schalk; Girard Ruff; Justin Fike; Jan Potter; Jacob Picchione; Josh & Emma Paddock; Levi Trask; Krystal Henry; Deborah Levesque

**PUBLIC HEARING – LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2025 – A LOCAL LAW
ENACTING A MORATORIUM ON WIND ENERGY CONVERSION
SYSTEMS AND WIND ENERGY FACILITIES.**

Mr. Yates brought the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 PM

Mr. Yates explained that the town was going to have a one-year moratorium on wind energy systems to give the town time to do their research and do our due diligence to look at all aspects of wind. He asked the public to keep their comments at a minimum to allow time for all who wish to comment.

Public concerns and comments:

- The proposed site would be in some residents' back yard so they would be directly impacted by noise, vibrations, etc.
- Mr. Waygood and Mr. Johnson provided some research and studies on wind turbines that he will forward to the town clerk. They read the documents into the record.
- 80-100 gallons of oil used in turbines that are considered toxic waste when it is changed once a year. It was questioned what happens to it when it is changed.
- The company's primary objective is to secure the land, get contracts with landowners who do not live here, do environmental studies and get a package together then sell it to a big electrical conglomerate and move on. It was questioned if the buyers are reputable, are they going to do the correct things for the environment.
- It was suggested that we don't allow the company to put the meta tower up to get data because if there is good data New York State will allow the tower to go up.
- It was suggested that we talk to other towns that have installed wind turbines.
- Blades need to be changed every three years, which are costly.
- Wind facilities will negatively impact wildlife, property values, youth futures, the environment, views, physical health.

- It was suggested to not allow wind towers in the town.
- Landowner lives in Buffalo and wouldn't want one in his back yard they will just reap the benefits.
- Concerned about noise, water and soil pollution.
- Additional costs to taxpayers.
- Fire departments would need updated fire training.
- A resident was concerned that information may be being blown out of proportion. They mentioned homes are built on concrete footers and there are oil and gas wells that spill that go unreported.
- There is not enough appropriate data.
- Communities are being forced to allow wind energy by New York State.

Bedrocks renewables remarks:

- Very early in the process and some of the concerns expressed will be addressed through a multi-year development process.
- These take about 5 years to develop.
- Committed to thoughtful development and considering the community's concern along with environmental stewardship.
- Projects are carefully sited near already existing electricity infrastructure to minimize land use and environmental destruction.
- Prior to construction there are extensive scientific studies (environmental and economic)
- Community is given the opportunity to view study results and comment.
- Millions of dollars are paid directly to the communities and towns.
- Environmental health and safety costs (fire department training; road reconstruction) are covered by the project.
- There are others in the community that support the project.
- Supportive of the moratorium but urges the board to omit the met towers.
- Met towers are temporary, easily installed and removed, little or no impact to the environment, critical to assessing a wind resource.
- If there isn't good wind recourse, they will not attempt to build a project.
- Looks forward to working together over the next several years to thoroughly develop a project to benefit everyone in the community.
- The met tower is used to validate weather or not, it is a good place to get wind, and they can't answer how it would impact the environment and wildlife without the test.
- Three to four years of data is ideal but would like to get as much as possible.
- There is potential revenue for the town through taxes, long-term jobs, short-term construction jobs, increasing the populations of town restaurants and hotels.
- Bedrock Renewable would like the opportunity to respond to the questions. They want to make sure their answers are supported.

Documents were provided to the board from the Chautauqua County Health board and are available at the clerk's office.

Mr. Yates requested any documents the public would like to share to be forward to the town clerk and questions can be forwarded to Bedrock Renewables.

MOTION #62 OF 2025

ON A MOTION MADE BY MR. SENA SECONDED BY MRS. ADAMS AND NONE BEING
OPPOSED, THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:58 PM.

Stephanie Gibbs
Town Clerk