

Letters

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has now formally recommended construction of a Jamestown wind turbine to the Town Council – we welcome Mr. Basso's remarks. Certainly there may be some people who oppose the idea of a large wind turbine on Jamestown, and the *Press*, as well as any future public hearings, is the appropriate place to discuss and debate the issue.

However, we would like to respectfully correct several misleading statements in Mr. Basso's letter:

- The Nov. 10 workshop was advertised and well attended by around 60 people. Our committee has held open meetings for the past two-and-a-half years, and we have welcomed and solicited input from anyone with any point of view.

- The committee's recommendation is for a single wind turbine. Our committee categorically rejected all sites that would subject existing residences to "shadow flicker" from a turbine, and this eliminated the vast majority of sites. Our island will never become a wind farm. It is true that we have discussed siting several additional turbines, but we are not recommending that at present – it would depend on future decision-making processes.

- It is not necessarily true that property values would be reduced by a wind turbine. Of course some people will consider a turbine to be ugly, but many others might consider it to be handsome. A study in Hull, Mass. showed that the value of properties within sight of their turbine increased, compared to properties from which the turbine could not be seen. A study in Germany showed that drivers on the autobahn prefer rest stops from which turbines can be seen.

- Mr. Basso notes that the amount of power would be small "by power generation standards." But we would not be trying to generate electricity for all the Northeast, just for the municipal load of our small town. The equivalent of a 440 KW generator running continuously, day and night, 365 days

a year, would be a big deal for the town, and would more than supply the electrical load of all the town properties, including the schools, pumping station, town hall, public safety building, sewage plant and other loads.

- Mr. Basso's figures that average the wind turbine output over the whole of Jamestown's population are misleading. The turbine we are recommending would be town-owned and would pay for itself through a combination of eliminating town electric bill payments to National Grid (these payments would go towards the bond payments for the project), sales of surplus electricity to the public utility and payments to the town for renewable energy credits (RECs) for the green energy produced. Overall, the wind turbine would be expected to produce a modest income to the town budget, for a total of over \$2.2 million over its lifetime.

The study contains an extensive analysis of the economics of wind turbines under different assumptions, carried out by a professional economist. The analysis is conservative and some eventualities (higher electricity prices or longer lifetime of the turbine, etc.) could result in a huge financial bonus for the town.

Time is of the essence in the fight against global climate change. With each passing week and month, the scientific literature demonstrates even greater urgency. There is increasing evidence that, left unchecked, the effects of greenhouse gas emissions will be largely irreversible and potentially abrupt. In light of these warnings from the scientific community, there is a clear need to accelerate emissions reductions through the use of clean, renewable energy.

We in Jamestown would be especially vulnerable to the effects of sea level rise, and it makes sense for us to take action locally to help prevent it. Jamestowners cannot control what the state does offshore, or when, but we can control what happens in our own town. We want Jamestown to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

The study is not an "if or when"

document. It is available online via the town website at www.jamestownri.net/index.html. The study is also available to be read in hard copy at the library and at the town planner's office.

In conclusion, we would like to thank Mr. Basso for expressing his opinion. Whether or not to build a turbine is an important decision for our town. A turbine would be a large structure that would be highly visible and would be around for at least a couple of decades. We urge everyone in Jamestown to read the study, view the visualizations, think about the economics, consider global warming, and let the Town Council know what they want. This is how democracy works.

William W. Smith III
Don Wineberg
Abigail Anthony, Ph.D.
Michael Larkin
Jamestown

Caucus legal and time-honored

We wish to respond to the lead article in the Nov. 19 *Press* with a defense of the American two-party political system. The implication of some of the quotes in the article is that party politics are somehow dirty and underhanded. In fact, the system has served America well for over 200 years, and is key to a functioning democracy.

To get a little more local, in June, the Jamestown Democratic Town Committee began its work of finding qualified candidates to run for town office. The task is not easy, because to run for office is time consuming and often thankless, and many capable people fear the commitment. We succeeded in getting nine candidates to file their papers by the deadline on Aug. 20. The Republicans failed to nominate any candidates.

Our next job was to raise some money so we could print brochures and run ads in the *Jamestown Press*, in order to inform the electorate of the candidates' biographies and qualifications. We also arranged a meeting with the editorial staff of the *Newport Daily News* so the newspaper could endorse worthy candidates, and made sure the



A thankful smile

Audrey Magarian, 5, gets into the holiday spirit while taking part in a "Charlie Brown Thanksgiving" potluck last Sunday at the Jamestown library.

Photo by Andrea von Hohenleiten

candidates knew about the various public forums being held.

The outcome of this effort was that eight Democrats were elected to the Town Council, School Committee and as Town Moderator. The Town Council winners chose to meet in caucus prior to their swearing in, a legal and time honored way of promoting party unity by deciding certain leadership issues in private. These candidates ran as a team and were elected as a team, so they, and they alone, had the right to discuss party matters together. The other members of the Jamestown Democratic Town Committee (of which Barbara Szeptowski is not and never was a member) were appropriately not invited to this caucus.

We are proud of the work we did to support this election, and believe that without organized Democratic Party efforts there may not have been a full slate of candidates. All of us should be thankful that these men and wom-


en are willing to give so much of their time to serving the citizens of Jamestown.

Anne Livingston for the Jamestown Democratic Town Committee

Thanks for supporting Horse Play

Nov. 8, 2009 was a super day! Horse Play Equine Rescue & Sanctuary wants to say thank you to Phyllis Bedard, Fran Hamilton, the entire staff at Trattoria Simpatico, all the incredibly generous silent auction donors and everyone who attended the Horse Cents 2009 Winter Hay Drive at the restaurant. Your generosity will provide much-needed hay for the 22 horses in our care this winter. Your support is greatly and gratefully appreciated. You all are awesome!

Deidre Sharp & The Horse Play Crew Saunterstown



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