

**Madison Matters**  
**Summary of Public Meeting**  
**April 18, 2012**

First of all, thank you to all of the people who attended the meeting on Wednesday evening. Those who provided comments spoke eloquently and backed their statements with facts. Bravo! Remember that the public comment period will remain open until May 18.

Unlike *The Oneida Dispatch* and the *Syracuse Post Standard*, this report will attempt to give those who could not be there an accurate portrayal of events.

The hearing began at 7 pm. Paul Crovella, Planning Board member, ran the meeting. The proceedings were recorded. By the time the meeting started, over fifty people had signed up to speak. While the newspapers reported attendance of approximately 150, this is a gross underestimate. The auditorium seats 350 people. By the news reporters' estimates, this means the auditorium would have been less than half occupied. In reality, most of the seats were taken. A more accurate estimate of attendance would be at least 300 people.

Seven people spoke in favor of the project. All but one have either signed leases or are relatives of landowners who have signed leases. At least four of these speakers are members of the Stone family, on whose property many of the existing turbines sit. The majority of these comments extolled the beauty of the Madison Wind Farm (which contains seven 328 feet high turbines) and denied that they were affected by noise, health complaints or shadow flicker. Unfortunately, their comments also contained attacks on those who are opposed, calling them, propagandists, newcomers and worse.

On the other hand, at least 33 people delivered cogent and specific criticisms of the failings of the DGEIS. Many noted that the proposed thirty-six 492 feet high turbines is a project so different in scope and scale that it is ludicrous to compare this project to the Madison Wind Farm. Speakers questioned the project, both procedurally and substantively. They questioned applicant's methodology, its unsupported statements and its use of studies that support its contentions while ignoring those that do not. The speakers addressed such topics as noise, shadow flicker, birds and wildlife, water quality, telecommunications, population density, and property values, to name a few. Many asked that the applicant conduct site-specific studies and suggest meaningful alternatives and ways of mitigating the effects of the project. Others asked the Town Planning Board to recommend and the Town Board to adopt a moratorium to address the short-comings of the Town's existing special permit regulations governing wind facilities. Most speakers expressed concern that the project appears to be at such an advanced stage and asked the Planning Board to move slowly and deliberately by doing some serious homework before acting.

One speaker was Town Supervisor Ron Bono. He opined that the project should be reduced by half. "It's way too many windmills," he stated.

The last speaker was Madison Matters' attorney, Doug Zamelis. Attorney Zamelis noted that the speakers were not a small group of hippies, yuppies or antagonists but rather the group reflected the diversity of our community — old and young, long time residents and landowners and people new to the area — all with the common wish to live in a vibrant, happy and caring community. Finally, he reminded the Planning Board that the applicant and its consultants would be preparing the formal findings and that, given the authors, it would be crucial for the Planning Board to review these findings with a critical eye.