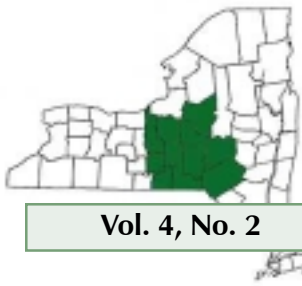


Central New York



Green Voice

Vol. 4, No. 2

A Publication Of The Central NY Green Party

Fall 2006

When Mary Jo Long was elected to the Afton Town Council as a Green, she was motivated by the importance of protecting our environment. Little did she realize how soon an issue of great environmental (and economic) concern would arise. When the powerline issue first came to its attention, the Afton Town Board passed her resolution asking the Public Service Commission to hold a hearing in the Town. The Town heard nothing from the PSC on our request. To make its voice louder, Long circulated petitions among Afton voters. The response was tremendous. In addition, other Greens collected signatures in nearby towns. People checked off their particular concerns and even added concerns not listed on the petition, particularly health concerns. Long thanks everyone who took the time to learn more about this proposed powerline and sent in their petitions.

The Public Service Commission is supposed to hold a Public Statement Hearing in the vicinity of the proposed project. But, this is a 200 mile-long vicinity and people want public statement and evidentiary hearings to be held in accessible locations. That means in local communities.

Why do people want the PSC to hold their hearings in our local communities?

1st: More people affected by the proposed powerline will

be able to hear the testimony and evidence presented on the project if the hearings are held in their communities. Most people work and cannot travel to Albany on a weekday to hear this testimony. By "locally", the signers of these petitions mean here in Afton, in Bainbridge and all along the path of the proposed powerline.

2nd: These hearings need to be held locally because lawyers hired by our elected officials (using our tax money) won't raise certain arguments. For example, NYRI's application is one piece of a state and national energy policy known as deregulation. This energy policy is an effort to change electricity from a SERVICE into a COMMODITY going to the highest bidder even if that reduces SERVICE to local communities. It encourages the breakup of the services that utilities used to provide

so that generating of electricity and transmitting of electricity are not done by the same regionally based company. An example of that policy was when ENRON Corporation, which didn't manufacture a single volt of electricity, was able to game the electricity grid once it was deregulated. Eventually, ENRON was convicted of creating blackouts and then blackmailing the state of California into paying 3 times the

On September 27, 2006 Afton Town Board Member and Green Party activist, Mary Jo Long, mailed to the Public Service Commission nearly 600 signed petitions, that ask the PSC to schedule hearings in four communities affected by the NYRI powerline proposal.

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The Green Party is on the ballot...and you helped!

On August 22, officers of the Green Party of New York State submitted petitions containing about 30,000 signatures of registered New York voters who agreed that the Green Party should have its candidates on the ballot in November.

Having submitted twice as many signatures as required by onerous state law, we fended off challenges by the major parties who would prefer to see voters limited to two choices, or perhaps fewer. Congratulations to those who used the petitions supplied in the last newsletter, and downloaded them from the state party website, to guarantee our success.

Earning our place on the ballot insures that people can continue to enroll as Greens when they register with the Board of Elections, even though they will have to check in the "Other" box on the registration form, and write in "Green". It seems so nickel-and-dime, but the state requires that in order that the Green Party have a checkoff box on the form, our gubernatorial candidate

has to garner 50,000 votes in each election.

Our next task is to get those 50,000 votes, which will make it possible for the party, on the local AND state levels, to simply designate its candidates onto the ballot, rather than the expensive petitioning process, subject, of course, to primary challenges from the enrollee base. So, keep up the good work of building a truly corporate-independent party from the ground up by finding ways to promote our candidates through word of mouth, by distributing campaign materials, and by donating money. Thanks.



Central NY Green Voice

Volume 4 • Number 2 • Fall 2006

The Central NY Green Voice is a newsletter of the Chenango County Green Party. Its purpose is to connect politically progressive people and keep them abreast of news, views and events not featured in the conventional media. It is dedicated to building a party of participants: please be encouraged to submit articles, letters, or information for our calendar at:

submit@chenangogreens.org

If you prefer to receive mail from the Green Party electronically, please notify us by email at:

mail@chenangogreens.org

All emails will be kept strictly confidential. We won't ever share them in any way.

We meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7 pm at 27 West Main Street, Norwich, room 101, a conference room on the first floor of the Chenango Council of the Arts suite. You are invited to come, listen and talk about current local, state, national and international issues. There is no obligation. We welcome your presence.

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mail@chenangogreens.org

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www.chenangogreens.org

Email List Serve:

To join our email list discussion group, send a blank email to:

chenango_greens-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

(the above should all be on one line when you send your email)

Newsletter Contact:

Chris Amar
2669 State Highway 220
Oxford, NY 13830
607-843-2474

A Message From Alison Duncan, Green Party candidate for Lieutenant Governor

Green Party gubernatorial candidate Malachy McCourt and I oppose the NYRI powerline that is planned for central New York.

The Green Party supports democratic institutions that allow residents to have meaningful input on important decisions affecting their communities. That has not occurred in the approval process for the NYRI project, which has been pushed through by appointed officials who are not accountable to members of the affected communities, and without proper public review. It is part of the ongoing process of deregulation and privatization of energy producers that has resulted in increased energy prices with no control by local municipalities. In addition to the flawed approval process, the NYRI project will take private properties through eminent domain, jeopardize the health of residents along its path, and encourage ever-higher levels of energy consumption instead of conservation.

If elected, Malachy and I will use every means at our disposal to oppose this project. We will introduce legislation to revoke the use of eminent domain by private corporations. We will initiate a conversion to decentralized and publicly owned power utilities that are democratically controlled by local municipalities for local distribution of power. We will also initiate a conversion from nuclear and fossil fuels to non-polluting, renewable energy sources that will result in a cleaner environment, reduced energy prices, and energy independence, while creating new jobs. Please vote for Malachy McCourt for Governor and Alison Duncan for Lieutenant Governor on November 7th for a brighter, safer, cleaner energy future!

Powerline Corridor Newspapers

Newspapers you might want to write to, to voice your opinion

(submitted by Earl Callahan)

Evening Sun
P.O. Box 151
Norwich, NY 13815
607-334-3276
eve_sun@norwich.net
www.evesun.com

Letters to the Editor
c/o Press & Sun-Bulletin
P.O. Box 1270
Binghamton, NY 13902
1-877-348-7811
www.pressconnects.com

Times Herald Record
40 Mulberry Street
Middletown, NY 10940
845-341-1100
letters@th-record.com
www.recordonline.com

Daily Sentinel
333 W. Dominick Street
Rome, NY 13440
315-337-4000
sentinel@rny.com
www.rny.com

Daily Dispatch
130 Broad Street
Oneida, NY 13421
315-363-5100
www.oneidadispatch.com

The Observer-Dispatch
221 Oriskany Plaza
Utica, NY 13501
315-866-1600
jbroadbo1@utica.gannett.com
www.uticaod.com

Post-Standard
P.O. Box 4915
Syracuse, NY 13221
315-470-0011
linhorst@syracuse.com
www.syracuse.com

Evening Telegram
111-113 Green St.
Herkimer, N.Y. 13350
315-866-2220
news@herkimertelegram.com
www.herkimertelegram.com

Evening Times
P.O. Box 1007
Little Falls, NY 13365
315-823-3680
news@littlefallstimes.com
www.littlefallstimes.com

Imagine Grassroots

by David J. Cyr

This past summer approximately 1% of the Greens in New York State took part in the Independent Nominating Petition signature-gathering effort, to get our five-candidate Peace Slate on ballot this November. The legal requirement was 15,000 valid signatures from voters registered in New York State. To ensure against challenges that might eliminate signatures for any of the numerous technical objections possible, we set and then met a goal of getting double the requirement, being approximately 30,000 signatures. That was accomplished primarily because a few did a great amount of work.

It's worth presenting a number comparison, for those who may think this insignificant. The Green Party of New York State currently has 36,141 enrolled members. The 30,000 signatures we collected represents a number which is equivalent to 83 percent of our party's registrants.

For the Democrats, with their 5,489,521 New York State registrants, to have made a grassroots effort proportionately comparable to ours, they would have needed to obtain Four Million, Five Hundred Fifty Six Thousand, Three Hundred and Two (4,556,302) signatures.

It was reported that Jonathan Tasini's supporters collected approximately 40,000 signatures for his Democratic primary challenge against Clinton. He garnered 16% of the vote in the lightly attended Democratic Party's Primary, at which the pro-war Hillary was crowned. But, the support that the antiwar Tasini got works out to only just 2% of the registered Democrats.

Now, imagine if instead of just 1% of Greens participating in the petition drive, we had 10% participation (one out of every ten Greens). We could have collected 300,000 signa-

tures, or 20 times the requirement. Why would we do that? Because that magnitude of grassroots support would have become a sensational national news story, far more significant than the much-covered-and-analyzed Connecticut Democratic Party Primary, in which one Republican (Lieberman) was replaced by another (Lamont). A display of 10% grassroots petitioning support would have created great renewed interest in our party and our goals. It could have drawn in large numbers of new registrants, which would strengthen us, and increase our influence upon public policy.

That chance is past. But, we have another. Between now and November 7th, Greens should actively campaign for the full Peace Slate, especially for Malachy McCourt, for whom we need to get 50,000 votes, in order to secure our ballot status that some have worked so hard to provide this year. If we do not get out the vote in November, then we will not have a Green Party to vote for later. Put GP lawn signs out by the road, and bumper stickers on your vehicles and building windows. Wear GP buttons and shirts. Let people know we exist—and why—so those who see no purpose in voting for Republicrats might show up to vote for us. If you know any of the 117,986 antiwar Democrats who voted for Tasini in their primary, then urge them to vote for us in November. And tell them if they love peace more than they hate Hillary that they should vote not just for Hawkins, but for all five (5) of our Peace Slate candidates.

David J. Cyr

Delhi, NY

GPNYS SC member - Delaware County

ozekicyr@dmcom.net

Burn Plant Defeated ...continued from page 6

Catalyst drop the project.

Besides the possibility of environmental degradation, numerous other issues argued against construction of this facility: Catalyst would have used 1/2 million gallons a day of city water, causing strain on the reservoir supply and placing a limit on the potential for future development by others who might also require significant amounts of water. The plant would almost certainly have caused nuisance problems in the form of dust, odor and noise for the residents closest to it and would have lowered property values on the many homes in the West End and River St. neighborhoods. And Catalyst's project would have used the city's only large Empire Zone parcel—60 acres—for the creation of just 20 jobs. The

project would have also defined the city's last large developable area and limited future development there to those who would not mind being next to an incinerator. (ie: other polluting industry)

While the result, thus far, has been favorable to the citizen petitioners against the plant, it remains to be seen what will ultimately be done with the old railroad roundhouse site on the West End of town. The site is zoned heavy industrial and has easy highway and rail access. For now, Catalyst Renewables has gone to greener pastures.

Representatives say they are pursuing an alternative site in NY state. But, there is nothing to prevent them from coming back or to prevent another pol-

luting industry from viewing this site as a potential home.

Residents of Oneonta have learned that it is up to them to determine how this site is to be used, and by determine we mean to "cause" as well as to "define". Residents have been empowered. Their action has shown them that they can make a difference. And while there was certainly official objection to this project, it is quite likely that without citizen action the plant would still be on the drawing boards and on its way to being built. It is likely now that some of those same citizens will continue with the process and become involved with, and possibly influence, the planning commission's current redraft of the city's "comprehensive plan". The fight against Catalyst may well have provided the "electricity" needed for participation in a new vision of Oneonta's future.

PSC Petitions Submitted ...continued from page 1

prior cost of electricity. Why won't the lawyers present this argument to the PSC? Because these Commissioners will say, "We are not allowed to evaluate the policy of the State of New York or the United States. We only apply the rules." They aren't supposed to change policy. But, a policy that benefits a few investors hidden behind a corporate veil SHOULD be addressed in these hearings even if the lawyers won't do it.

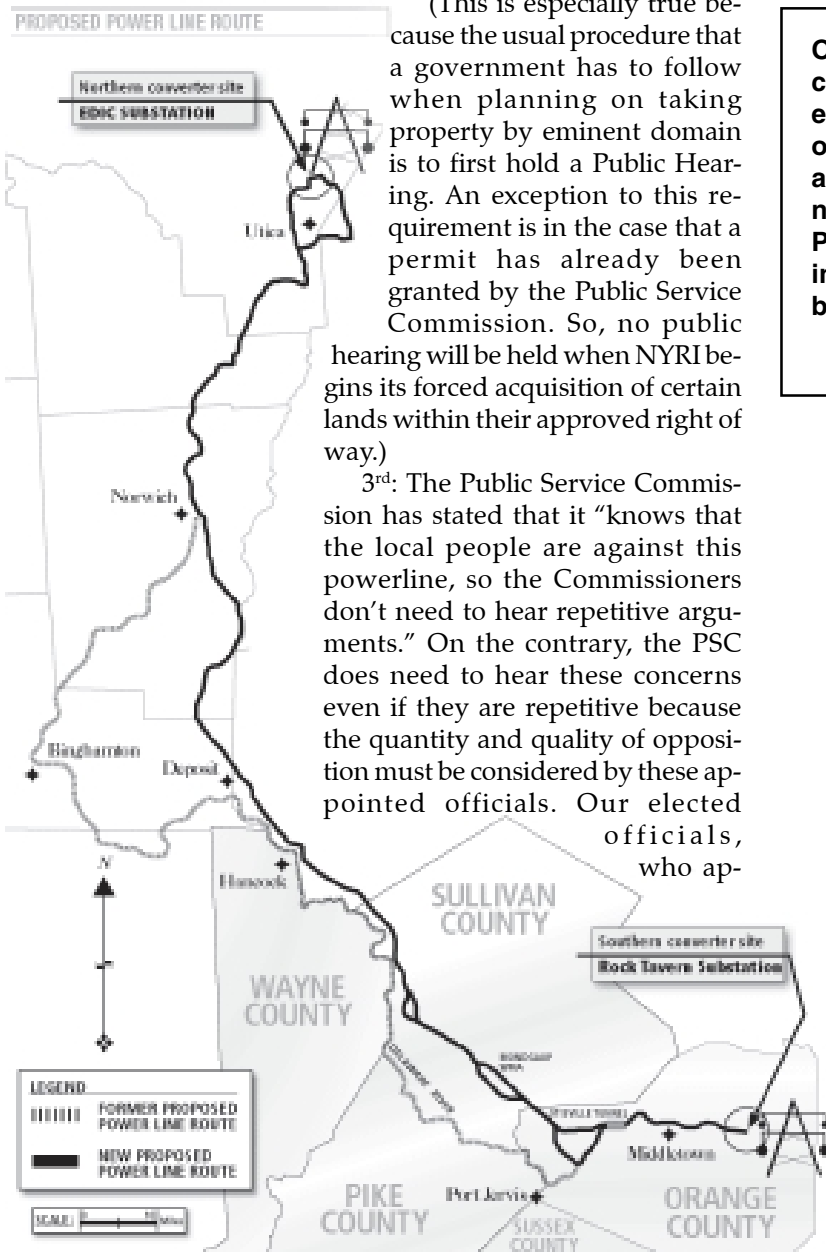
Another concern that won't be addressed in the PSC unless local people raise it, is that if the PSC gives NYRI a permit to build the powerline, this private corporation will automatically be able to use eminent domain. The PSC will say, "We don't decide about eminent domain: no testimony on that subject is allowed". But their decision WILL, under the Transportation Corporation Law, allow this private company to use eminent domain to take people's property and homes for the company's private profit. People want to ensure that this issue is addressed at the PSC hearings.

(This is especially true because the usual procedure that a government has to follow when planning on taking property by eminent domain is to first hold a Public Hearing. An exception to this requirement is in the case that a permit has already been granted by the Public Service Commission. So, no public hearing will be held when NYRI begins its forced acquisition of certain lands within their approved right of way.)

3rd: The Public Service Commission has stated that it "knows that the local people are against this powerline, so the Commissioners don't need to hear repetitive arguments." On the contrary, the PSC does need to hear these concerns even if they are repetitive because the quantity and quality of opposition must be considered by these appointed officials. Our elected officials, who ap-

point these commissioners, also need reminding of the vastness and depth of the public opposition, because these elected officials are the ones who can change the policy and the law. If democratic government is supposed to be rule of the people, for the people and by the people, then the repetitiveness of our concerns is our democratic right, which ought to be weighed rather than dismissed.

4th: Finally, it is important for the community to speak not only to the Public Service Commission but also to each other. NYRI, when it was holding the required public information meetings, met public resistance to their chosen format of answering questions, which involved writing out the question and getting in line for employees of NYRI to give individual answers. This format prevented the public from hearing each other's questions and the answers. The Public Service Commission's hearings should be accessible so that every citizen can hear each other's concerns.



Our government should be responding to OUR concerns, and not telling us "pipe down, we've heard enough already". I urge everyone who can: go to our website www.chenangogreens.org, download a few petitions and circulate them among their neighbors and friends. They will be mailed to the PSC every few weeks. It is this kind of grassroots involvement that will guarantee that the people will be heard.

- Mary Jo Long

Greens Endorse Garry For Supreme Court

At their September meeting, the Chenango County Green Party endorsed Elizabeth Garry for the office of State Supreme Court Justice for the 6th Judicial District. She is presently a part time-Town Justice for New Berlin and a trial lawyer who has extensive experience in the Court for which she is running. Greens don't readily endorse Democrats, but Garry's intelligence, skills and compassionate nature qualified her for our endorsement. The 6th District Judicial Candidates Committee also gave her their highest rating. She is a cum laude graduate of Albany Law School, clerked for Justice Ingraham for 4 years and has been a trial attorney for 12 years.

For more information go to:
www.garryforjustice.com.

**Malachy
McCourt**
for Governor



"We need a universal system to care for the sick and disabled and to help the healthy stay that way. Let's remove the profit from sickness and restore human compassion. With new technology, we'll develop ecologically sound employment all over this great state. Politicians with clean hands can secure clean jobs. The Green Party has them. Put us to work! Don't waste your vote—give it to us."

votemalachymccourt.org

**Alison
Duncan**
for Lt. Governor



"New York needs an education system where schools are fully funded, teachers are compensated fairly and students have adequate resources to acquire essential skill – and that gives all students access to after school programs, safe places for students to be mentored, tutored and to do homework."

alisonduncan.org

**Julia
Willebrand**
for Comptroller



"The state comptroller manages \$140 billion in state pension funds. I will make sure that money is invested in companies that protect the environment, deal honestly with consumers, and do the right thing for working people."

juliaforcomptroller.org

**Rachel
Treichler**
for Attorney General



"The democratic principles upon which this country was founded require that each person have an equal voice in decision making. As Attorney General, I will protect our right to vote and our right to free and fair elections. We can't continue to let the short-term economic interests of a few override the long-term life, liberty and happiness of all."

voterachel.org

**Howie
Hawkins**
for U.S. Senate



"To stop the death and destruction in Iraq, we have to withdraw all U.S. troops right now – not next year, or the year after, or the year after that. Then, we need to cut military spending in half, and use the money to rewire the world for safe, clean, renewable energy."

hawkinsforsenate.org

Vote Green Party 2006

VOTE

to Give our Schools and Children the Resources They Need to Learn

for Universal, Single-Payer Health Care

for New Job Growth in Renewable Energy

to End Corporate Crime in New York and Hold Corporate Polluters Accountable

for Fair Taxes and Fair Labor Laws

to Drop the Rockefeller Drug Laws and Abolish the Death Penalty

to Allow Same-Sex Couples to Marry

to End the War in Iraq

The Green Party of New York State was founded around the principles of social and economic justice, ecological wisdom, nonviolence and participatory democracy. For more information or to get involved, visit gpnys.org

Donations gratefully accepted:
Green Party Peace Slate
P.O. Box 8297
New York, NY 10116
Contributions are NOT tax deductible

Oneonta Citizens Rout Burn Plant

Power Plant Fight Energizes Community

by Andy Vaupel

Organized community opposition in Oneonta, under the direction of a grassroots group, Citizens Against Catalyst Power Plant, has waged a brief and successful campaign against a Texas company's plans to build a 35-megawatt "biomass" power plant within the city limits. In a mid-September letter to the city's mayor, Catalyst Renewables Corporation formally withdrew its proposal from the city's books.

If built, the plant would have

burned 1,100 tons of wood waste daily, and would have emitted 100 tons of Nitrogen Oxides, and more than 100 tons of carbon monoxide yearly along with unknown tons of particulate matter, hazardous air pollutants and other contaminants. All of this occurring within a quarter mile of residential neighborhoods, businesses and schools. It is also assumed, judging from the history of its other wood burner in Lyonsdale, NY, that the company had future expecta-

tions of burning fibrous landfill waste—cardboard, construction and demolition debris, and maybe garbage.

The plant was opposed with sound objections from the community and from some members of the city government, though it was almost certainly the vocal and visible opposition (in the form of pickets) and CACPP's very successful petition-signing drive (93%) that led Oneonta's mayor to request that

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Green Party Delivers Petitions to Public Service Commission

Calls for local hearings
(see front page)



Central NY Green Voice

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Greene, NY 13778

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