

A WAKE UP CALL TO RESIDENTS OF POESTENKILL and RENSSELAER COUNTY

Letter to the Editor: The Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (RPA) was formed to protect the land from ever being developed. They used tax payer money (grants) to acquire land. They then take the land off the tax rolls as a non-profit.

Next come more grants (tax payer money) to be used to...guess what? Develop. Specifically two 40 car parking lots at the end of Legenbauer Rd. so visitors may come from anywhere doing things like riding bikes on trails that were developed throughout their property.

With all the boasting about attracting strangers to the acquired properties, one has to wonder what became of the notion of "protecting the rural character" of Poestenkill. These visitors are portrayed as quiet, rule-abiding, nature loving hikers, birders, photographers, etc. Poestenkill residents know better. Poestenkill residents are being cheated out of thousands of dollars of tax revenue, and if that isn't bad enough, plans are growing to "acquire" another 12,000 plus acres on the plateau in the same manner.

I suggest you investigate the loss of tax dollars by comparing the tax revenue per acre previously payed by the land owners to the tax dollars per acre promised by the RPA. You will find that the town received close to six times per acre more than what is currently promised (revenue that will likely evaporate once RPA goals have been achieved). Another financial loss to the town - No school taxes will be paid on the RPA land.

How far does the ravenous reach of these land-grabbing organizations have to extend before town residents realize what is happening under their noses - and before some can no longer even afford to pay the growing taxes on their beloved land? Enough is enough!

~ Thomas Hohman, Poestenkill

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