

## Perception

To The Editor:

After reading a letter to the editor by Sally A. Murray in the Oct. 12 edition of the *Daily Courier-Observer* I feel the need to address some of the statements that were made.

First of all: I am an active member of the Colton Citizens' Committee that was originally established in 1974.

I would hate for the public to form an opinion of the committee based solely on one person's perception. I think it's important for community members to draw their own conclusions from first hand experience either by getting involved with the committee or visiting the following web site:

[www.angelfire.com/planet/citizenscommittee/](http://www.angelfire.com/planet/citizenscommittee/).

An e-mail link has been provided if there are questions and/or more information is needed. It is obvious from the amount of information presented on the site, that numerous questions have been raised in Colton during the past year or so.

Take a look at the programs the committee has sponsored: hamlet revitalization, identifying historic and cultural roots, meeting our new county legislator, and slide show of the Racquette River and its history.

Committee members conducted a caterpillar egg mass viability study to access hatch rate last spring. For the past two years, members have also maintained the garden at the SH56/SH68 corner.

Secondly: this is a democracy in which citizens are allowed to voice their concerns, ask questions, form opinions and write letters. Further, I feel it is the duty of our elected officials to consider both sides of an issue before taking action; after all that is what voters elect them to do.

Sure, there were those in the community who opposed the timing of spraying for the caterpillars, the land settlement with NYS, questioned the 1M\$ grant and how the money was to be spent.

But don't stop there - ask them why and listen to their answer. Interestingly enough, the committee that gathered data to finalize the application for the 1M\$ grant was comprised of both those who "opposed and questioned" and those who did not. We all worked to get the job done.

Thirdly: there still seems to be some confusion about the Dick Owens saga. Just to set the record straight - Mr. Owens was not reappointed as chief assessor in January 2007.

He did, however, remain an assessor until March '07 when he resigned. The Friends of Dick Owens was formed in January '07. The group carried petitions asking for his reinstatement.

By April 2007, 471 taxpayers had signed the petitions. Yes, I carried a petition because I felt he had been treated unfairly. For more information consult the town board meeting minutes of January, February, March and April 2007.

Finally: this fall the candidates for town supervisor, town council and town assessor will be asking for your support - don't hesitate to ask questions - tough questions.

Make use of the information on the previously mentioned web site and minutes from the town board meetings (on file at the town hall). I urge all Colton registered voters to exercise your right and make informed choices on Nov. 6.

J. Christine Murphy  
Colton resident  
and taxpayer