

Town of Dunn
New Lake Residents Focus Group
February 9, 2004 6:30-8:00pm

Question 1: What made you choose to live in the Town of Dunn?

- We had a cottage on Waubesa for 3 years and lived on the west side of Madison, but 2 houses was too much, so we tore down the cottage and built a house.
- We moved to Dunn because it was a nicer piece of property than what we had in McFarland. People said that the taxes in Dunn would be less, but they lied.
- We moved from a cottage on the other side of the lake in Pleasant Springs, to a nicer house on the Dunn side of Lake Kegonsa. We wanted a nicer house so that's why we moved.
- We moved here from Milwaukee. We wanted to be on a lake because we have 3 kids.
- We also moved to the lake because we have 6 kids and wanted them to play together. We specifically wanted to be in the Oregon school district.
- We chose Waubesa because it has less boat traffic, less busy.
- We chose Waubesa because it's quieter and because it's connected to Lake Monona.
- The water quality on Waubesa seems to be better than Kegonsa too. We like to swim in Waubesa.

Question 2: What do you like about Dunn and why is that important to you? What don't you like about Dunn and why?

- Like about the Town:
 - I like that Dunn is concerned about its land use issues and rural community. I had a real closeness to that when I grew up, but the community is no longer that, so it's refreshing to be in Dunn.
 - I like the pace of life. We rarely lock our doors, we feel very safe. I feel very comfortable in my neighborhood. People say "hello". The architecture is old and so are the trees, I find it very charming.
 - I would be a little depressed if all the old homes were torn down and only high income families could access the lake.
 - I enjoy driving home through the countryside, but it's so close to Madison. I also feel very safe and don't lock the doors. I appreciate the land use efforts. The newsletter seems to talk a lot about preserving Dunn. We didn't realize that Dunn was being actively preserved until after we bought a house here.
 - I like the swans, sunsets, sunrises. It's still close to Madison. I like that there are no condos, it's mostly family homes.
 - I really like the rural character, lack of development and subdivisions. I like my drive home, I see deer, hawks, etc.
 - It's so quiet and I love the transition from the beltline through the cornfields. I think conserving the land is important. It's nice to know that there aren't going to be those condos.

- Don't like about the Town:
 - I don't like that there isn't a central area or place to meet your neighbors. We do have the community center, but don't take advantage of it enough. I don't like the lack of identity. Maybe we could have a festival or something. I don't like that there isn't a school system in Dunn where we're paying our taxes to.
 - Intersection of B and 51 bothers me. I get scared turning off of B. I've seen a lot of accidents almost happen there.
 - Madison Sewage District bothers me. The geese are dirty and all over near my property.
 - I'm concerned about the snow plowing on Lake Farm Rd., it was kind of nasty. It seems like if there is more snow the plowing is better than if there is less.
 - I'm concerned about proximity to fire services. My neighbor's house caught fire this summer and it took 20 min. for the trucks to show up. I'm not really clear on what services Dunn is responsible for, and what is contracted out.
 - I too am concerned about the fire response times. Also, when it's time to vote, I don't have a clue who these people are that are running. More information on the candidates would be nice.
 - My biggest dislike is that there is no central hub. I'm not even sure about the boundaries of the Town of Dunn. I would like to see a little downtown area- not a Wal-Mart though. Also, on Lake Waubesa the only places to get food are bars, there's a lack of family places. A place to get cheeseburgers and ice cream would be well used on the lake. A place with picnic tables would be nice.
 - I'd like to see city water around the lake.

Question 3: Are you aware of the PDR program? How do you think this affects the quality of life in the Town? How important is this program to you? Is it worth this much of your tax bill? How come?

- 2 people had heard of the PDR program, 4 had not.
- I think it's a good thing. Everyone said they like the drive home, so this preserves that.
- I love it- it's exactly what we were talking about loving the rural character here.
- Either way is ok with me.
- Living in Dunn, it's hard not to like it. When I lived in McFarland, I felt a little differently. The little area south of McFarland would have been ok to be developed, the marsh area would be a natural stopping point.
- I like the concept, it makes a natural buffer because it prevents the city of Madison from moving further. It helps preserve our nature ways.
- The Dunn community doesn't have a hub/downtown to build community identity around, but people in Dunn do identify with the rural character that is preserved here. It gives town residents an identity.

- Rapid growth quickly changes an area and the town would be subject to that if the town didn't actively work to preserve it. I'm sure there are developers out there that would love to get their hands on town land.
- What would we do if we lose all of our agricultural land?
- If that's what it costs to keep the rural character, that's what it costs. You end up paying for what you like.
- I like it and am willing to pay for it.
- It's nice that there aren't big condos going up and that there are open areas.
- I think the current PDR tax rate is great since it's affording us all what we love.

Question 4: What are issues for you as residents of the town that live on the lakes?

- I don't know where the town boundaries are, I didn't know Kegonsa was in the town. The only issue I see are the weeds. You have to go so far out to be able to use the water. Some of the neighbors cut trenches to get to the middle of the lake because it was so clogged with weeds.
- Get rid of the geese, there are too many and they're really messy. They can carry diseases.
- The weeds are a problem, but I don't know what can be done about that. I can't get the boat in and out. Also, sometimes the water level is too low- I can't get the boat.
- I'm most concerned about the water quality. I wish Dunn could take water quality checks and then publish what the levels are.
- The height of the water can be a problem. I'd also like to be more aware of the water quality. I don't want to swim and then get swimmer's ear because of high levels of bacteria in the water. Even just alerting us when the levels are high would be nice. Knowing how it compares to other lakes would be nice, I'm not sure about the baseline really.
- I'd like to know how involved the town is in lake water quality. Does the town work with the county, DNR, etc.?
- I'm concerned about the nitrate levels in our drinking water. Our well has high nitrate levels, so we had to buy a house filtration system. I know that the nitrate levels are directly related to the farms across the street.

Question 5: What is the one thing you would like to say to the Town about the 20 year planning process.

- Keep doing what you're doing. Maintain the rural atmosphere.
- Preserve nature, wildlife, quality of the lakes. The PDR program is great.
- Put an ice cream store on the lake. Also, if you had something at the town hall before elections to meet the candidates, that would be helpful.
- Maintain a low level of growth, don't want rapid change like other communities. Waunakee, where I grew up, is ruined because of rapid growth. It happened so fast. I'd hate to see that happen to the town of Dunn.
- Put a map in the newsletter.
- I'm worried that Madison might want to move south into Dunn. Find a way to deal with Madison.