

Small Lots, Subdivision, and Mobile Home Park Focus Group Summary

December 2, 2003 6:00-7:30pm

What do you like about the Town of Dunn?

- Honest, approachable government
- Outstanding neighbors
- The Land Use Plan is good and has been used to protect the Town
- Stable citizen base, has had the same neighbors for a long time
- I live in the mobile home park and there is a lot of movement in and out of the area
- There aren't any trash piles, eye sores, overflowing dumpsters. The streets are clean.
- Wonderful government that listens to people.
- I like that we've had a direction with the Land Use Plan and that we're taking a look at updating it
- I like that I can live in the country, but still feel like we're part of a community because we do have some neighbors
- Very approachable government
- I like that we used to have neighborhood picnics, haven't had them in recent years though.
- I like the fact that you can hunt in the Town of Dunn

What don't you like about the Town of Dunn?

- I'm apprehensive that external factors are bearing on decisions that are made here and the quality of life. We have to move the township into a more aggressive position. I don't want the ideas that we have to be crushed from the outside.
- During hunting season I'm concerned about the hunting that goes on close to subdivisions, it's unsafe.
- Snowmobiling concerns me. Last year there were only a few days that there was enough snow to legitimately be able to snowmobile, but nevertheless, late at night you could hear them less than 100 feet from our house. It's a noise issue.
- I'm concerned that we improve our relationships with surrounding communities so that we don't get eaten up by them.
- I don't see any new Town leaders on the horizon. I'm afraid of what will happen when the old guard retires.
- The mobile home park is close to the marsh and there are times when you feel like cringing during hunting season.
- I also hear the snowmobiles late at night cutting through the farm fields and you know that most of them are bent out of shape from being at the taverns; they should not be on snowmobiles.
- I'd like the Town of Dunn to enforce rules about junk cars and buildings falling down in the mobile home park. I bust my butt keeping my place clean and neat, but others are far from it. Laws should come into force there.
- I dislike that we are not a village; it would give us autonomy over our zoning. I hope we can explore that because we are way ahead of most communities on land preservation.
- I share the concern about no leaders on the horizon. I hope we can find young people that share these values.
- Noise has gotten worse since we've moved here. We can hear the interstate and a loud train in the middle of the night.
- I don't like feeling second rate to our neighbors like Stoughton, McFarland.

What are your impressions of the PDR program?

- I like that the development rights are held by several entities to ensure their permanence
- Now that other municipalities are starting programs, I think we should be concerned about the grant money that will be available to us. We should find more sources of money. I've been very happy to pay my taxes for it, it's a small amount compared to other areas of the tax bill.
- I'd be willing to pay another fifty cents per 100,000 for the program.
- Is there a way to focus it more to our borders to use it as a tool to take care of the Town of Dunn?
- I agree with the whole concept. I'm afraid that the government could take PDR farms by eminent domain if they wanted to build a road through them. Laws change and I'm afraid about its permanence.
- I don't know what properties have been purchased. I don't think we get the Town newsletter at the mobile home park.
- PDR is a first step. We need more tools to protect us, need to start looking for those.
- There is a limit to how far PDR should go. You don't want to stifle the Town.
- I would stop growth in terms of new homes. We should have less growth than we have been having.
- I wouldn't like to see us turn into another Verona.
- If PDR is to remain viable, then the issue of whence development must be addressed. Our hand must be strengthened somehow. The Fitchburg model won't work because we don't have a center. We need to move to a different foundation than PDR because we're seeing its weaknesses against McFarland. PDR must evolve.
- Surrounding communities are looking for ways to defeat PDR in the Town, we must keep developing tools.

You currently pay .50 cents per \$1,000 in property tax for the program. How do you feel about that?

- It's not enough to really help the program
- I think we need to go one step further than PDR
- I'm aware that this year would be a bad year to raise PDR taxes because shared revenue from the state was cut so our taxes are already going up.
- Is now the time to do it? is a good question to consider. It's the right time to start talking about it.

What are your issues for you in the Town of Dunn as people living closer together?

- I'm concerned about the major roads that cut through the Town, but we don't have much control over that.
- Developments on our fringes, even though it's in a neighboring municipality, will have big impacts on our roads. We have no clout with Fitchburg and they will eventually develop on our borders.
- Rules and regulations in the mobile home park and I'd like if the Town could do something about that.

What is one thing you want to say to those putting together the new plan, what information would you like them to know?

- Stay the course of ag land preservation, limited growth that the Town has had. Find the tools that will help us with these goals.
- Always look for help, find other communities that have gone through what we're going through. Get their advice.

- We should publicize our plan so that people living in neighboring communities can see it and give them some ideas. Don't stay isolated, educate our neighbors.
- Build alliances with neighbor communities to help keep what we have here.
- I hope the plan is not anti-business. I've seen many small communities lose opportunities because they won't allow businesses to come to their area.