

## DCTA Update - January 2017

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### **ZLR (Zoning and Land Regulation Committee) Policy Changes**

CUP Appeals: The ZLR recently proposed changing the process for Conditional Use Permit (CUP) appeals. The goal was to remove the County Board from the appeal process. The initial proposal was to have CUP appeals go directly to Circuit Court for Certiorari review. DCTA opposed the change during the committee process and worked with staff on an amendment to have appeals go to the County Board of Adjustment (BOA) and avoid the expense and time of court. The BOA is a well-regarded body made up of appointed town officials. They already act in a quasi-judicial capacity, have detailed procedures and timelines, and are significantly less expensive if then Circuit Court.

Rules for Town Officials: The DCTA requested a change (made January 2017) to the ZLR Committee rules to require that Town officials wishing to speak at ZLR meetings are officially allowed to do so.

Maintaining Recommended Attendance: The ZLR considered changing its policy regarding a petitioner (or agent) attendance at public hearings from “recommended” to “required.” The DCTA opposed this change. In most situations it is advisable for the petitioner to attend, however there are noncontroversial proposals that do not necessitate a trip into Madison and significant time spent at a ZLR public hearing. There was no reason to remove the choice to attend.

### **Farmland Preservation**

DCTA is continuing to work with the town of Dunkirk to assess farmland protection options including Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) and Transfer of Development Rights. Dunkirk is planning an educational meeting on March 19, 2017 to talk with residents about interest in developing a town program.

### **Review of CARPC’s Groundwater Protection Planning Framework Appendix G: Groundwater Element of the Dane County Water Quality Plan**

DCTA reviewed the proposed plan and worked to get changes to several open ended policy statements that could have had unforeseen impacts or unanticipated future interpretation.

### **Town Zoning**

The DCTA is continuing work with the towns interested in opting out of County Zoning. A new Zoning Code has been drafted and the documents needed to readopt comprehensive plans, adopt an official town map, and adopt the new zoning code have been drafted. A contract for zoning administration with detailed costs for work by General Engineering is being reviewed. Other important details of withdrawal related to GIS and Farmland Preservation continue to be addressed including coordination with DATCP for Farmland Preservation Program approval of the zoning code.

### **DaneCom**

Now that DaneCom is up and running, DCTA is tracking how the County deals with the operations and maintenance costs. How these costs are calculated and allocated is an important financial issue for towns.

### **Dane County Zoning Code Revision**

DCTA is continuing to attend (with subcommittee representatives from Vermont, Roxbury and Pleasant Springs) meetings of the subcommittee working to re-write the County Zoning Code. Significant zoning code changes are being discussed from reducing the number of events allowed under Ag. Entertainment to setting a number of domestic pets allowed before a kennel license is needed.