

Minutes
DCTA Membership Meeting
Wednesday, September 21, 2022
Westport Kennedy Administration Building
5387 Mary Lake Road, Waunakee, WI

Towns Present: Albion, Blue Mounds, Bristol, Cottage Grove, Dunkirk, Middleton, Pleasant Springs, Rutland, Springfield, Sun Prairie, Vermont, Verona, Vienna, Westport.

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm by President Derr.

Pledge of Allegiance; Representative Hesselbein introduced.

Dane County Regional Housing Strategy (RHS) Presentation by Olivia Parry, Senior Planner Dane County Planning & Development Department and consideration of DCTA sponsorship contribution

The presentation started with facts about the need for workforce-affordable housing in Dane County. The background and history that lead to this initiative was reviewed, the strategy and timeline stated, and next steps discussed. The presentation can be found here: <http://danecotowns.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Dane-County-Regional-Housing-Strategy-DCTA-9.21.22.pptx.pdf>

Specific strategies suggested for towns were new housing opportunities with Accessory Dwelling Units, farm worker housing, and rehabilitating hamlets. The community land trust model was briefly discussed where one entity owns the land and another the building. Transportation issues in towns and transportation for people with disabilities was brought up.

Concerns with the RHS funding model were discussed, specifically frustration regarding paying the county funding and paying staff to fundraise. The goal of participation was emphasized and that working together we can identify some strategies that the county cannot do alone.

Motion: Brixy/Pulvermacher. Table consideration of DCTA sponsorship until next membership meeting. Carried.

Motion: Pulvermacher/Updike. Clarify that Lauber and DCTA will participate but not financially at this time. Carried

Approval of May 18, 2022 Annual Meeting minutes

Motion: Geller/Brixy. Approve minutes. Approved unanimously.

Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) Government Affairs Director / Legal Counsel, Joe Ruth

Discussion: What town boards can do to plan ahead for solar farm requests

Attorney Ruth noted that he will be presenting on this issue at the WTA convention in October. The legal background is that the state has taken away a lot of local control. If towns want to regulate solar it needs to be from a public health and safety perspective and regulations can't significantly increase

the cost or decrease the efficiency of the project. If a facility is 100 Megawatts or larger, the developer needs to apply to the state PSC and all local regulations are preempted. Towns can still try to get voluntary concessions (developer agreement). There is no downside to asking. Ruth has seen great success in a “social contract” as developers prefer their community to accept them. Towns can ask for setbacks, restoring the land (reclamation plan), surety bond for clean up/remediation. (Holand, Sheboygan and Saratoga have done this.)

Q: What is an example of public health regulation? A: Perhaps if it changes where the water drains. Not a lot.

Q: Can it supersede shoreland zoning? A: Good question. Ruth will look into that and let towns know.

Q: Does it make sense for a town to have an ordinance if it has little impact? A: It depends what your goal is, if your goal is to keep them away it doesn't help to have an ordinance. If there are aesthetic or reclamation goals then an ordinance makes sense.

Membership requested list of town ordinances so towns can easily find them and see example language. Renee will collect this and send it out.

Road agreements were also discussed. Renee was asked to send Springfield's agreement to towns.

Greater Madison Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), Transportation Planning Manager, William Schaefer, Discussion: What the MPO does for towns and town funding request.

Mr. Schaefer could not attend because of covid. Middleton noted that they voted to not give money because MPO planning has not sufficiently addressed town interests.

Update on request for WTA to prioritize town authority over speed limits in their legislative agenda

WTA has heard the concerns about wanting the authority to have more control over speed limits and to be able to do that without a costly traffic and engineering study

The ability to reduce speeds by 10 mph without a study was discussed. Ruth said that can be done a road-by-road basis, it doesn't have to be town wide. Members commented that someone needs to tell the County that. Ruth suggested asking Dane County to point to a statute or a regulation that led to the interpretation that a 10 mph reduction has to be town wide.

The next step is the WTA board approving working on this. Ruth thinks that politically the best route may be to change state statute so towns can change up to 20 miles an hour without DOT approval.

Members brought up the presentation at the May Annual Meeting and comments from the presenter about the Solomon Curve, an outdated model from 1964 that still guides traffic engineering speeds.

Updates from DCTA Executive Director and appointees on: CARPC, Lakes and Watershed, DaneCom, and MMSD

Executive Director Report

- July listening session in Dunn on the zoning code was well attended. A comprehensive list of ideas discussed will be sent to towns for feedback.
 - Changing the County ordinance on the Board of Adjustment (BOA) so appeals go directly to circuit court was discussed (they now go to the BOA). The DCTA Executive Board had no issues with the proposed change and suggested Dane County proceed with the ordinance amendment process.
 - A survey on town needs/interest with the UW Extension and Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change will be sent out soon. Look for it.
 - The Farmland Preservation Plan is being updated to include language about adapting to extreme weather events, address solar facilities, and include a purchase of development rights program and funding.
 - Notice was sent out for applications for the CARPC seat the deadline is 9/29. Mark Geller was thanked for this long service on the Commission.
- CARPC – Pfeiffer/Geller reported on a recent contentious hearing. Proactive planning efforts discussed and hope for recommendations on how to improve city/village/town planning communication. The budget for next year was passed.
- Lakes and Watershed – Updike reported on an initiative for a fee in lieu system for areas where developers cannot meet stormwater standards with a project in the same watershed. PFAS is being discussed and also handled by the airport commission. A problem is that we don't know where it is an issue, it was found in one outlying town. Lakes and Watershed is proposing that all wells in Dane County Parks be tested to get some idea of where it is in Dane County.
- DaneCom – Anders/Meier reported no meetings in 2 years, billing has been consistent. Typically, vendors start pushing for upgrades about now based on the age of the system. It would be good to have a meeting.
- MMSD – Wilson could not attend the meeting. Increased fees were noted.

Motion: Hampton/Pulvermacher. Adjourn at 9:44 PM. Carried.