

The Official TOWN OF DUNN NEWSLETTER

Fall 2017

Views From the Town Chair

Edmond P. Minihan, Dunn Town Chair



Photo Credit: Town of Dunn Artist in Residence, Mark Jung. Photograph of Dunn Heritage Park sign, with newly seeded prairie in the background.

The Cranes are grouping up, re-constituting their Crane Community for the trip South. Since this is being written outside on a beautiful early Autumn morning, I can hear their calls for assembly and the distant growl of a combine harvesting beans for accompaniment. The music of the fall can be heard now.

The Cranes get together twice a year. And so do we, at the Annual Town Meeting in the Spring and the Special Town Meeting each Fall to set the levy for coming year. We celebrated 20 years of the Purchase of Development Rights Program two weeks ago, so it has been that long since the Special Town Meeting approved the first purchase of conservation easements by the program. The electors of the Town met in assembly to approve that purchase and all other purchases of preservation easements have been approved in the same way.

It is a milestone in a process that started about 45 years ago when a feisty farm wife, Lorraine Hawkinson, convinced the then Town Board that they needed at least a planning committee. It has been 40 years since the Town Board appointed a Plan Commission, and set the stage for the creation of the first town comprehensive plan in Dane County two years

later.

As Margaret Mead has told us, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has”. That small group of dedicated individuals did indeed change at least a small part of the world by permanently preserving fragile landscapes and productive farmland.

That group of dedicated citizens changed the dynamics of development pressure on the Town in such a major way that we can now have a planning horizon that spans 200 years. That is actually a realistic time frame in the Town of Dunn. It is very difficult for most communities to even fathom such a horizon. It is only because they have not had that small group of dedicated individuals to change their world. What has happened here is the result of ideas generated by citizens and brought to the local government for the implementation of the mechanisms necessary to make those ideas a reality.

And so it has happened, in stages, with new ideas over time. More time than I ever thought it would take. But it is a dynamic process, and we are not nearly done. You can expect the Town of Dunn to proceed forward in

Ed Minihan’s Efforts Over 40 Years Contribute to the Landscape Today

by Cathy Hasslinger, Clerk Treasurer & Business Manager

The Town of Dunn is a thriving community of people, land, water, and nature that has been planned for, worked for, and sometimes fought for, by concerned residents over the years. While I set out to write an article commemorating Ed Minihan’s 40 years of service to the people and places in this town, those of you who know Ed, will know that he wanted me to write about all the other friends and neighbors who took risks, worked hard, and fought poor planning and development pressure to make each step possible over the years. He is not at all comfortable with a tribute to his efforts, but he will go along with a look back at our recent history in order to recognize how our beautiful town could have become something very different from what we enjoy today.

First, I will emphasize that as I write about past events, Ed is up to his elbows in new projects, next steps, and broader community planning efforts. Our recognition of Ed’s 40th anniversary of service to the town, is in no way a retirement party. As always, Ed’s eyes are focused on the future; what will be preserved, and what will fade away. He has always envisioned the town as a place that people could connect to (*see Forty Years on page 3*)

Events You Won’t Want to Miss

Tuesday, Nov 14th 7 PM:
Budget Hearing Followed
by Special Town Meeting
at the Town Hall.

**Tuesday, Nov 14th
Following Special Town
Meeting:**
40th Anniversary
Celebration of Ed
Minihan on Town Board

keeping this a great place in which to live. There has been attrition in that small group of dedicated individuals, but they have been replaced by younger ones who carry forward the seeking of a path that leads to a truly sustainable community. The dedication is to the land. Once the land is saved, all else follows to sustain us.

Town Contact Information

Town Webpage: www.town.dunn.wi.us
Town Email: townhall@town.dunn.wi.us
On Facebook: Search “Town of Dunn”
On Twitter: @TownofDunn
Phone Number: (608) 838-1081

Town of Dunn
4516 County Road B
McFarland, WI 53558

PRSR STD
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Get Together for Apple Cider and Cake

When: Tuesday, November 14, 2017
after the Special Town Meeting (about 8:00 pm)

Where: Dunn Town Hall

What: We are celebrating Ed Minihan’s
40 Years of service on the Dunn Town Board

POSTMASTER: TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.
PLEASE DELIVER NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 31, 2017

Saving the Land For and From Us

by Meg Nielsen



NHLT Executive Director, Jim Welsh, speaking about how nearly all the lands visible from the event site at Sinaiko Park are permanently protected through the partnership between their organization and the Town of Dunn. Photo Credit: Roberta Hersch

"I spent many years getting my property restored to a habitat that is fit for wildlife. I wanted to participate in the PDR program to preserve open spaces for birds and wild creatures; to protect nature from, well sadly, from us," said Don Schmidt, a recent participant in the Town of Dunn's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program.

Schmidt is one of 34 landowners who have participated in the Town's PDR program since it started 20 years ago. Since then almost 3,400 acres of land have come under protection from development. Those areas encompass Sinaiko Park, verdant woodlands, rare wetlands and the fertile land of more than 30 farms; lands where prairies once stretched, building rich life-sustaining soil, and where Native Americans once camped, fished and hunted. In a region just adjacent to the burgeoning city of Madison and its sprawling suburbs, that is a unique accomplishment.

So, the Town of Dunn is celebrating. On September 16, about 150 people gathered at Sinaiko Park, a two-acre piece of the first parcel to come under protection through Dunn's PDR program, to hear comments from program participants and to enjoy the view of surrounding PDR parcels. Dunn celebrates not only the 20th anniversary of Dunn's initiation of the PDR program, but also the Town's partnership with the Natural Heritage Land Trust (NHLT), whose name has just changed to Groundswell Conservancy. (See related article on page 7.)

Sinaiko Park is named for the family that once owned the land and who first wanted to see it preserved instead of developed. Located between the Nine Springs E-Way and Lake Waubesa and once a campsite of Native Americans, Sinaiko Park was also the very first conservation easement undertaken by a town government in Wisconsin. Bob Uphoff,

Town of Dunn farmer and owner of Uphoff Ham and Bacon Farm, helped make that purchase possible.

"My hat is off to the Sinaiko family. They wanted to sell the property, but they felt very deeply about wanting to keep it in farmland production. They paid for the development rights. I stepped in and bought the land, because I had been looking to purchase more land for production, but also because I believe very strongly in keeping farmland in production. Having an abundant food supply means security in our society. So, we worked together with the Town and the Natural Heritage Land Trust to make the PDR purchase," Uphoff said.

Other farmers followed Uphoff's example. Now, much of the land you can see from atop the hill in Sinaiko Park is permanently protected under the PDR program.

"In Dunn, properties over 35 acres have a limited number of land divisions available to them. So landowners can create a limited number of residential lots on their farm or property. The PDR program offers to pay landowners to permanently retire those land divisions rather than using them to create new residential lots. This way, landowners can receive income for the value of those lots without having to sell part of their land. A conservation easement is the legal agreement we use to record the deal," said Erica Schmitz, Dunn's Planning and Land Conservation Director.

Dunn partnered with Natural

Heritage Land Trust on that first and on many successive purchases, knowing that their conservation efforts might be challenged by future politics. With every easement purchase, the Town pays the NHLT an endowment fee of roughly \$8,000 to assist in enforcing and monitoring conservation easements. NHLT is a "co-holder" of Dunn's conservation easements on PDR properties, having the same rights and responsibilities as the Town.

Although an easement is undertaken voluntarily on the part of the landowner to keep farmland in production, the easement is permanently attached to the deed of the property, and NHLT will step in if disputes arise in the future. Jim Welsh, Executive Director of NHLT, said the Land Trust has an insurance program that will provide funds should an easement need to be defended in court at some future date.

"It has been a great experience working with the Town of Dunn. The town has the combination of rich agricultural soils as well as wetlands, lakes and streams. And the town has embraced the concept of protecting those resources in terms of community. They want to embrace it. They have such a strong land use ethic. The town is even willing to pay for the land purchases with dollars pro-

vided by tax levy," Welsh said.

added. Like the town tax levy, the PDR purchases are always voted upon at a town board meeting or a town annual meeting.

Dunn is widely regarded as a pioneer of land preservation in the Midwest. While preservation efforts started in Lancaster County, PA and Montgomery County, MD, it is unusual for a town to take such an active part in efforts of land preservation. Other Wisconsin townships have done some land preservation, but Dunn seems to be unique.

Many have contemplated what makes the Town of Dunn unique and different from both other surrounding towns and those statewide and throughout the Midwest. Some think it may have started with the inventory of the town's assets that was done in the 1970s. The inventory chronicled natural high quality areas like wetlands, springs, woodlands and waterways. Prime farmland, so prevalent in Dunn, was also included. Others name the open space plan drafted somewhat earlier.

Whatever it was, the Town seems to have drawn like-minded people who value its considerable assets, including its rural character, and are willing to fight to keep those assets as they are.

"We have tried to make similar partnerships work in other areas, but it just hasn't worked as well. I think it's because the people in the Town of Dunn are willing to stand up for what they believe in. The people, the landowners and the town government have this strong mission to protect the land. And, then, they just work so hard! For example, the landfill that was proposed on the shore of Lake Waubesa a number of years ago: people from the town fought against it and defended their land all the way to the Supreme Court," Welsh said.

"It's always possible that someday the Town government could change and the program could end, but the NHLT would still be around to protect the wishes of the landowners who wanted to utilize the PDR program," Welsh continued.

Uphoff hopes that continued preservation of prime agricultural land and its resulting food production will help to circumvent any future problems. In comments made at the September picnic celebration, Uphoff said, "There is security in having a well-fed population. People who have enough food on the table don't start wars or riots. The American population spends a very small portion of its take-home pay on food. People forget that. They take it for granted. One of the reasons I wanted to keep farmland in production is because having a good agricultural system is one way to keep peace in the world."



Town Chair, Ed Minihan, chatting with speaker, author, and historian, Jerry Apps. Photo Credit: Roberta Hersch

vided by tax levy," Welsh said.

The PDR is funded by a local levy, Schmitz said. Using these funds, the town can purchase available land divisions from willing landowners in order to permanently protect farmland, natural areas and open spaces throughout the town. The conservation easement is the legal agreement used to execute the PDR, which remains in private ownership and is not typically open to the public.

"The Town has always been committed to stretching those tax levy dollars as far as possible," Schmitz said. All of Dunn's conservation easements completed in the last two years were funded in part through the Agricultural Land Easement Program, part of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, she

Forty Years (continued)

(continued from page 1) neighbors and nature in a meaningful way.

When we look back to the 1970's, we remember that development pressure was intense. Farms were being divided into subdivisions and lots were being sold without a good plan for serving them. On a map, the Town looked like "empty space" that could accommodate large industrial and building projects. People living here understood that there were sensitive wetlands, wildlife habitats and prime farm soils that make this place a unique value for conservation and that poorly planned development would change the landscape forever. In 1977, a moratorium

on development was enacted to provide time to adopt a Land Use Plan to ensure that the town's rural character was not lost. The Town of Dunn chose to recognize productive farms as important economic entities in land use planning. In 1997, the town purchased its first conservation easement as part of its Rural Preservation program. These measures were not completed without conflict, discussion and commitment, but the results speak for themselves. We are enjoying the beautiful open spaces and lower tax rates predicted by those who undertook the challenge of preserving the town.

Consider what our community could look like today if the town had quietly followed the trends and pressures instead of prioritizing preservation:

- A super highway designed to relieve Madison's traffic problems on the beltline could be diverting regional traffic through the town. This was a proposal that was defeated largely due to the town's conservation easements.
- Ultra-High Voltage transmission lines could stretch across the town and through its wetlands. This was also defeated largely because of the town's conservation easements.
- A Hot Mix asphalt plant could be operating near Highway 51 and trucking asphalt out of the town. This proposal was defeated by people who learned how this heavy industrial use would impact the nearby residents, the lake and farms.
- A large apartment complex could have been built where Colladay Point Park is today. It was zoned for apartments and

there was a proposal. Neighbors and the town combined efforts to purchase the property for use as a public park to prevent the sensitive peninsula from being overdeveloped without suitable roads and infrastructure to support the new population density.

- A large landfill could be operating on the shore of Lake Waubesa. The Libby Landfill proposal was defeated by folks in the town that understood the long-term impacts this landfill would have on the lake and neighborhood. Today, this lake shore site is both protected and enjoyed as Lake Farm County Park.



Neighborhood fundraising contribution to defeat the Libby Landfill on the shores of Lake Waubesa is accepted by Ed Minihan



a 4-story hotel on Lake Kegonsa, and commercial and industrial buildings could make up our landscape today. Plenty of developers were interested in completing these projects. This would have resulted in more miles of roads to maintain, higher population, and much higher taxes to support extra infrastructure.

The rural town we enjoy today could have been a suburb of Madison, hosting its traffic, industrial parks, landfills, power lines, and asphalt manufacturing. We are grateful to those long-range planners, visionaries, and risk takers who stopped the trend toward poorly planned development and set a new direction. A direction that has resulted in preserved wetlands and farms, quiet neighborhoods, Community Supported Agriculture businesses providing locally grown food, wildlife habitats, outdoor activities, and people who still know and help their neighbors.

I will agree wholeheartedly with Ed's feelings that the credit for preserving rural character and nurturing Dunn's unique quality of life is shared with the many people who have contributed over the years. We owe gratitude to these folks and to the many thoughtful friends and neighbors that contribute today by

serving on commissions, getting involved, restoring prairies, being good stewards of the environment, creating local art, growing food, and appreciating and sharing what makes Dunn a special place.

It is only fair to acknowledge that Ed Minihan's leadership, passion, and relentless persistence for 40 years has been a sturdy foundation for all who worked alongside him in the past and those who continue today. It is Ed who challenges us to plan for 200 years into the future and to consider the inhabitants of this area 12,000 years ago as glaciers were receding. By honoring past generations and remaining firm in his commitment to future generations, Ed has guided, shared, and worked to keep focus on what is important in the long range. If time has served as a test, the results are tangible. We can all breathe easier, literally and figuratively, because of Ed's leadership and contributions.

Popp Property Sale & PDR Purchase

Two noteworthy land use issues will be considered at the Nov 14 Special Town Meeting:

- C. Considering options for marketing and selling the "Popp Property" at 4423 Goodland Park Road.
- D. Consider purchasing a conservation easement as part of the Purchase of Development Rights Program.

TOWN OF DUNN SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Tuesday Nov. 14, 2017 7:00 PM
Dunn Town Hall
4156 County Road B

Notice is hereby given of a Public Budget Hearing and Special Town Meeting called pursuant to Wis Stats. 60.12(1)(c), by the Town Board of the Town of Dunn, on November 14, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the Dunn Town Hall at 4156 County Road B, McFarland. The purpose of the meeting is:

- I. Announcements
 - A. John Herm, Poet Laureate
 - B. Introductions
- II. Public Budget Hearing
- III. Business
 - A. Minutes of Annual Town Meeting on April 18, 2017
 - B. Minutes of Special Town Meeting on October 10, 2017
 - C. Consider purchase of conservation easements under the Town's Purchase of Development Rights program
 - D. Consider authorizing marketing and sale of property located at 4423 Goodland Park Road
 - E. Consider 2017 tax levy for General Fund, PDR, and Debt Service
 - F. Storm water education information
 - G. Business from the floor as may be allowed by 60.1 Wis. Stats.

Cathy Hasslinger, Clerk
Treasurer/Business Manager
Posted October 9, 2017

Each town resident that is present at a town meeting and is eligible to be a registered voter, whether registered or not, may cast a vote on issues decided at Town Meetings. Contact the Town Clerk at 608-838-1081 or chasslinger@town.dunn.wi.us in advance to request accommodations related to disability that are needed to improve your participation.

TOWN OF DUNN PROPOSED 2018 BUDGET

2018 Budget Highlights

By Cathy Hasslinger, Clerk Treasurer/Business Manager

Town Residents can attend the budget hearing and Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, November 14 at 7pm at the Town Hall to learn more about how town funds are budgeted and to provide input. After the budget hearing, town residents who are eligible and present at the meeting will vote to set the tax levy. It is possible that the town residents will set a levy amount that is different from what is proposed in this newsletter.

Any updates to the budget will be posted on the Town website at town.dunn.wi.us.

While the town’s budget is tight due to increasing costs, the town has applied for several new grants that have helped to offset the impact on the tax levy. In 2018, two Fire and EMS providers are increasing costs. McFarland increases by 26% and Oregon increases by 39% to fund new equipment purchases. These are partially offset by a decrease of \$40,850 from Stoughton, our third provider. Costs from Stoughton decreased because equipment purchase payments were completed in 2017 and are not continuing in 2018. The town continues to increase spending on roads and land conservation for next year.

One land sale and one land purchase are included in the proposed budget and are pending further approvals. The proposed land sale is the property located at 4423 Goodland Park Road which is currently open space that hosts a little library and memorial bench. The proceeds from the sale would be designated for parkland dedication. The land purchase would be two acres to expand the parcel around the Town Hall and Highway Garage at 4156 County Highway B. This would provide for possible future expansion needs and the amount would come from the General Fund.

The Tax Levy for 2017

The proposed increase of \$36,750 in the Town’s total levy is 2.01% greater than last year to fund the 2018 budget.

Mil-Rates for 2017 Tax Bills

The local assessed value mil-rate is proposed to be \$2.87 per thousand which is an increase of 1.61% over last year. The proposed equalized value mil-rate is \$2.52 which is an increase of less than one percent (.37%) as compared to last year. This equates to \$252.00 local tax for a property value of \$100,000.

2018 Projected General Fund Revenues: Overall decrease of 1.5% or \$30,544 less than last year

- Tax Revenue for the General Fund will decrease by 5.3% a decline of \$67,742 due to a reduction in the General Fund tax levy.
- Intergovernmental Revenue is expected to increase by 3.24% or \$12,238 because the town has been pursuing several new grants for smaller projects that have been helping to build revenue and offset other revenue decreases. These include the Dane County PARC grant for \$15,225, an RTA grant in the amount of \$37,983, and a DNR grant for dredging work that funded improvements at Dunn Heritage park. The grant amounts will be received in 2018. A Yahara WINS grant of \$20,000 was awarded for a new pilot leaf pick up program. Staff also submits grant applications for forestry, recycling, roads, culverts, and conservation on a regular basis and these are included in revenue projections.
- License and Permit revenue is expected to increase less than 1% or \$325 in 2018.

GENERAL FUND	2016 Actual Year End	2017 YTD 10/7/2016	2017 Estimated Year End	2017 Adopted Budget	2018 Proposed Budget	Variance 2017 2018
REVENUES						
TOTAL Taxes	1,267,697	1,280,448	1,285,104	1,283,123	1,215,381	-67,742
TOTAL Intergov. Rev	324,799	225,637	297,413	377,685	389,923	12,238
TOTAL Lic./Permits	90,282	70,441	88,814	88,719	89,044	325
TOTAL Fines/Penalties	32,370	24,980	31,019	28,700	30,700	2,000
TOTAL Publ Charges	299,576	302,684	322,863	301,727	321,031	19,304
TOTAL Misc. Revenues	45,962	51,706	71,251	21,711	25,043	3,332
TOTAL General Fund Revenues	2,060,686	1,955,896	2,096,464	2,101,665	2,071,121	-30,544
EXPENDITURES						
TOTAL General Gov.	388,843	275,216	379,350	418,592	425,174	6,582
TOTAL Public Safety	477,745	468,299	523,310	526,565	545,302	18,737
TOTAL Public Works	758,787	598,034	840,454	840,664	901,671	61,007
TOTAL Health & Human Svc	52,653	53,504	53,504	52,004	54,800	2,796
TOTAL Culture Recreation	28,818	28,788	43,964	63,977	30,331	-33,646
TOTAL Conservation & Dev.	74,811	60,535	75,763	69,999	60,343	-9,656
TOTAL Transfers	279,030	17,500	149,342	130,300	53,500	-76,800
TOTAL Gen. Fund Expense & Transfer	2,060,686	1,501,876	2,096,464	2,102,101	2,071,121	-30,980
BEGINNING GEN FUND BALANCE	595,100	595,100	595,100	595,100	595,100	0
Revenues	2,060,686	1,955,896	2,096,464	2,101,665	2,071,121	-30,544
Expenditures	1,781,656	1,484,376	1,947,122	1,971,801	2,017,621	45,820
Transfers	279,030	17,500	149,342	130,300	53,500	-76,800
ENDING GEN FUND BALANCE	595,100	1,049,120	595,100	594,664	595,100	436
RURAL PRESERVATION FUND (PDR)						
BEGINNING PDR FUND BALANCE	671,159	281,569	281,569	281,569	277,347	-4,223
Revenues	689,848	507,301	507,701	1,114,397	920,340	-194,057
Expenditures	1,079,438	489,334	511,924	1,122,208	1,164,515	42,307
ENDING PDR FUND BALANCE	281,569	299,536	277,347	273,758	33,172	-240,586
BURYING GROUND (BG)						
BEGINNING BG FUND BALANCE	58,930	62,373	62,373	62,373	65,305	2,932
Revenues	8,658	5,877	7,377	7,200	7,200	0
Expenditures	5,215	3,115	4,445	6,469	6,414	-55
ENDING BG FUND BALANCE	62,373	65,135	65,305	63,104	66,091	2,987
DEBT SERVICE FUND (DS)						
BEGINNING DS FUND BALANCE	101,248	101,242	101,242	101,242	0	-101,243
Revenues	344,579	359,071	359,071	359,071	313,078	-45,993
Expenditures	344,585	460,313	460,313	460,313	313,078	-147,235
ENDING DS FUND BALANCE	101,242	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND (CP)						
CAPITAL PROJECT REVENUE						
Grant Income State TRIP LRIP	0	0	29,138	29,138	28,838	-300
Loan Proceeds - Capital Improvements	0	0	0	0	260,000	260,000
Loan Proceeds - Hwy Equip	0	0	41,050	0	0	0
Transfers in from Gen Fund	258,530	0	101,065	109,800	36,000	-73,800
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJ. REVENUE	260,015	0	171,353	138,938	324,838	185,900
CAPITAL PROJECT EXPENSES						
Road Construction Expenditure	199,453	259,463	259,463	360,000	390,000	30,000
Dyreson Bridge	16,739	0	0	0	0	0
Hwy Related Equipment Exp.	0	109,573	152,573	70,500	108,000	37,500
Land Purchase for Town Hall	0	0	0	0	36,000	36,000
TOTAL CAPITAL PROJ. EXPENSE	379,973	369,036	412,036	430,500	534,000	103,500
BEGINNING CP FUND BALANCE	569,803	449,845	449,845	449,845	209,162	-240,683
Revenues	260,015	0	171,353	138,938	324,838	185,900
Expenditures	379,973	369,036	412,036	430,500	534,000	103,500
ENDING CP FUND BALANCE	449,845	80,808	209,162	158,283	0	-158,283
VALUATION	2016		2017		2018	% change
Assessed Valuation	648,958,800		651,499,000		N/A	
Equalized Valuation	728,393,300		740,280,100		N/A	
TAX LEVY AND MIL-RATE						
GENERAL FUND TAX LEVY	1,233,462		1,250,352		1,183,532	-5.34%
DEBT SERVICE TAX LEVY	206,837		215,451		313,078	45.31%
PDR TAX LEVY	345,763		364,197		370,140	1.63%
Total Levy	1,786,062		1,830,000		1,866,750	2.01%
Assessed Value Mil-Rate	2.77		2.82		2.87	1.61%
Equalized Value Mil-Rate	2.58		2.51		2.52	0.37%
Undesignated Gen. Fund Balance	232,100		218,991		199,591	
General Fund Balance	595,100		595,100		595,100	
Assessment Ratio	89.09%		88.01%		N/A	



A new oak tree planted at Dunn Heritage Park. Forty three new trees were planted around the northern end of the park. A special thanks to Jennifer Gleichof for volunteering to help with this planting.

Town of Dunn Reaches 10 Years as a Tree City USA Community

Ten years ago, the Town of Dunn started its Urban Forestry Program and became a Tree City USA community for the first time. Every year since then, the Town has been recognized as a Tree City USA community. To receive this distinction, the Town must have a community Forestry Program, a Tree Ordinance, Tree Board, Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation, and spend at least \$2.00 per capita on tree / forestry issues and concerns. We are currently working on a 2017 WDNR Urban Forestry Grant that helps the Town in advancing its Urban Forestry



Program goals. This includes community outreach, staff training, road right-of-way inventory, tree planting and maintenance, and ordinance update. If you are interested in the Town of Dunn's Urban Forestry Program, please feel free to contact Hardy Krueger or Jay Hoel. Also, please check out the Town's website town.dunn.wi.us under Department, Tree Board for information on the Town's Urban Forestry Program and related tree publications and resources, which include both general and Town specific information.

2018 Budget Highlights (continued)

- Fines and Penalties are expected to increase by 6.97% or \$2,000 due to a trend of more revenue from traffic citations issued in the town.
- Public Charges revenue will increase 6.4% or \$19,304 because it includes a new MMSD grant of \$13,750 that was awarded to increase effectiveness and reduce use of road salt by using de-icing equipment on winter roads. An increase of 1.7% for trash charges is also in this category.
- Miscellaneous Revenue is expected to increase 15.35% or \$3,332 due to increasing interest earned on the town's fund balance.

2018 General Fund Expenses: Overall decrease of 1.5% or \$30,980 less than last year

- General Government is proposed to increase by 1.5% or \$6,582 and this category covers Town Assessor, administration, elections, insurances, legal fees, publishing, and Town Board.
- Public Safety is expected to increase by 3.6% or \$18,737 for Fire and EMS services, and law enforcement.
- Public Works is expected to increase 7.3% or \$61,007 to cover an increase of \$41,000 in additional sealcoating and additional road maintenance for 2018. The new pilot program for leaf pick up is also included in this category.
- Health and Human Services is expected to increase 5.4% or \$2,796 to cover a new contribution of \$2,500 to the Oregon Food Pantry. The town contributes to Senior Centers in McFarland, Oregon and Stoughton and Youth Centers in Oregon and

- McFarland.
- Culture and Recreation is expected to decrease by 52.6% or \$33,646. This category covers parks in the town. Park improvement projects at Dunn Heritage were a larger expense last year and are not expected to continue in 2018. Dunn Heritage improvement costs were largely offset by grant revenue.
- Conservation and Development expenses are expected to decrease by 13.8% or \$9,656 because the storm water plan update has been completed and those costs will not continue into the next year.
- Transfers are expected to be 59% or \$76,800 less than in the prior year. This reflects a tighter budget with a smaller amount for designated future uses like road reconstruction. It coincides with higher borrowing for road reconstruction in 2018.

The budget maintains a target General Fund balance of \$595,100.

2018 Capital Projects

The 2018 budget provides \$390,000 for road reconstruction for Colladay Point, Zor Court, Lake Kegonsa Road, and a portion of Halverson Road. A land purchase of two acres adjacent to the Town Hall for a total of about \$36,000 plus costs is proposed. Equipment upgrades are planned for 2018 and include trading in the town's loader and purchasing a new one. The net cost is expected to be \$108,000. New debt will cover a portion of the cost. The remaining amount will be covered by use of designated funds.

Debt Service

The 2018 budget proposes new borrowing of \$260,000. The town's overall indebtedness is proposed to be 1.6 million at the end of the 2018 budget year.

Funding for Quail Habitat



Featured in the above picture are Don Furseth, John Severson, Steve D'Orazio (President of the Oregon Sportsman's Club), and Alex (from Pheasants Forever).

Over 200 people attended Quail Forever Chapter's first fundraiser in the Town of Dunn at the Sportsman Club for a Sporting Clay Shoot. Funds that were raised at this event are available for developing quail and pheasant habitats on private lands. Contact John Severson at 608-692-0206 if you are interested in learning more about this program or possible funds for habitat restoration.

2017 Mil-Rate Chart

The chart below shows local mil-rates for some municipalities in Dane County as reported on the www.wistax.org website. The Town of Dunn's careful planning has likely contributed to the Town's consistently low mil-rate when compared to other municipalities with similar services and similar populations.

2016 Town Mil-Rates Comparison for Towns	Pop. (2015)	* Equalized Mil-Rate	Local Tax/\$100,000
Town of Madison	6,341	6.30	\$630.00
Town of Cottage Grove	3,824	3.76	\$376.00
Town of Verona	1,975	3.69	\$369.00
Town of Dunkirk	1,942	2.98	\$298.00
Town of Rutland	2,003	2.82	\$282.00
Town of Blooming Grove	1,799	2.69	\$269.00
Town of Sun Prairie	2,381	2.61	\$261.00
Town of Oregon	3,242	2.59	\$259.00
Town of Middleton	6,399	2.52	\$252.00
Town of Dunn	4,940	2.51	\$251.00
Town of Pleasant Springs	3,234	1.33	\$133.00

2016 Mil-Rates for Cities and Villages	Pop. (2015)	* Equalized Mil-Rate	Local Tax/\$100,000
City of Stoughton	12,819	8.42	\$842.00
Village of Brooklyn	965	8.40	\$840.00
City of Fitchburg	27,635	8.35	\$835.00
Village of McFarland	8,044	7.27	\$727.00
Village of Oregon	9,797	5.50	\$550.00
Village of Windsor	7,145	4.89	\$489.00

*Tax Mil rate levied in 2016, collected in 2017. Information is from Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance website at www.wistax.org

School Bus Safety

by Deputy Leslie Fox, Dane County Sheriff's Office

As the warmer weather comes to an end and the kids are going back to school, there is one important issue that comes to mind. Bus passing complaints! Do you know the most current Wisconsin bus passing laws? Here are some reminders.

Wisconsin law requires every school bus built after 2005 to display flashing amber lights before stopping. These amber lights allow drivers advanced warning that the school bus will be stopping and they need to prepare to stop for loading or unloading of children.

Treat these amber lights much like a yellow traffic light. You should be slowing down and coming to a stop, not speeding up to pass before the red flashing lights are turned on.

If you approach a school bus from the front or rear while it's displaying its flashing red warning lights, you must stop your vehicle not less than 20 feet from the bus. You must remain stopped until the bus operator extinguishes the flashing red warning lights. Failure to do so could result in a fine between \$30 and \$300. This law does not apply to vehicles proceeding in the opposite direction on a divided highway.

Another complaint I would like to address is speeding. This is a year-round problem and we receive daily complaints of speeding vehicles all over the county. This seems like an ever increasing problem with distracted driving. The hectic pace of life is affecting everyone's safety on the road. What can I say to convince people to slow down?

1. **Slowing down saves lives.** Driving faster shortens your response time and even a fraction of a second can mean the difference between life and death.

2. **Speeding doesn't really save much time.** You might think you're saving time, but it's not a lot of time. The small amount of time you save (like 5 minutes) isn't worth someone's life or the costly speeding citation.

3. **Speeding costs a lot money.** The best ways to save gas are to avoid excessive idling, more gradual accelerating and decelerating, and driving slower. Also, if you get caught speeding, the citation and court costs can be hundreds of dollars.

Slow down and stay safe!

Lake Kegonsa Leaf Pick-up Pilot



Did you know that leaves are a direct cause of algae growth in the rivers and lakes?

Wet, decaying leaves left on lawns and streets in the fall release a phosphorus "tea" that feeds algae blooms. Rain flows through leaves and carries the leached phosphorous directly to lakes. We can eliminate up to 80% of the phosphorus from leaves by properly managing them.

To help combat this problem, the Town of Dunn will be employing a new leaf vacuum to pick up leaves near Lake Kegonsa this fall as a pilot project in partnership with the Friends of Lake Kegonsa Society. The leaf machine was partially funded by a grant through the Yahara WINs Partnership. Depending upon the success of this pilot, the leaf pick-up program could be expanded to properties near other waterways.

If you live around Lake Kegonsa, you can make a difference by following these convenient steps:

- Around the first week in November, watch for yard signs near your street with the message, "LEAF PICK UP NEXT WEEK." We will begin leaf pick-up as soon as our new equipment arrives. If it is possible to start pick-up in October, signs will be up earlier.
- Rake leaves from your yard and from the street in front of your house to the edge of the road in a long row (not piles). Do not rake leaves onto the pavement or into the ditch. Helpful Hint: When hauling leaves a long distance to the roadside, rake them onto a large tarp or sheet. Then drag the tarp to the side of the road.
- Keep brush, rocks, animal waste, and other non-leaf material out of the leaves.
- Do not park near raked leaves.

- Leaves should be at least 4 feet from any mailbox or utility pole.
- If possible, cover leaves if rain is forecasted (rain will begin the process of leaching phosphorus).

Leaf Pick-up Ordinance

At the time of this printing, an ordinance is pending, but expected to take effect before the end of the year, that would ban leaf burning in the designated roadside pick-up area. Burning is a source of air pollution and ashes are a source of highly concentrated phosphorus. Even if the smoke and burnt leaves do not fall directly into the lake, stormwater runoff can carry ashes and its associated phosphorus to waterways.

The Town discourages burning leaves everywhere as they can smolder and create a nuisance for neighbors, especially for residents with breathing problems. Mulching with a lawn mower is encouraged. If you wish to dispose of your leaves at the Town Transfer Site, but cannot make it to the drop off site when it is open, you may pick up a key at the Town Hall between 8 am and 3 pm Monday through Friday during the months of October and November.

The proposed ordinance also would:

- Prevent residents throughout the Town from raking or moving leaves into any waterway or onto the immediate shoreline.
- Prohibit residents from keeping brush, rocks, animal waste, and other non-leaf material that could cause damage to the equipment or injury to workers with the leaves placed for roadside pick-up.
- Allow for a special charge to be placed on tax bills of residents in the pick up area to help offset up to one half of the Town's cost for the program.

On the Road Again

The Town received a matching grant from Madison Metropolitan Sewer District for snow and ice control. The money received was used to purchase a pre-wetting system for two of the Town trucks. The use of saltwater activates the melting process quicker and more efficiently and allows the Town to use less salt.

We will be installing our snow equipment on our trucks in mid-November. Please do not park vehicles on the roads or on the shoulder for more efficient snow removal. In addition, please do not park trailers or put other private property in the road right-of-way to help with both roadside mowing and snow plowing. When snow is anticipated, please put trash bins out in the morning. Also, the state law requires motorists to be at least 300 feet behind a snowplow for safety.


The Town of Dunn has completed its road work projects for the 2017 year. This includes Alma Road, Henshue Road and Lake Farm Road which were pulverized and then repaved. Plans for next year include sealcoating those areas to preserve the blacktop.

Our Town of Dunn Crewmen replaced several culverts in fall of 2017 including four replacements on Halverson Road, one on Lake Kegonsa Road, and six on Hawkinson Road. As always, we appreciate the patience of our residents during this process while we work to get everything completed.


Waubesa Wetlands: New Look at an Old Gem

Town resident and professor, Dr. Joy Zedler, is writing a book about the Waubesa Wetlands. As preliminary chapters become available, they will be posted on the Town's website at town.dunn.wi.us/land-use/historic-documents/. Be sure to follow these updated chapters to learn more about this ecological gem.

Credit: Kandis Elliot for artwork, Cal DeWitt for research, and Madeline Fisher for editing.



Southern end of Lake Waubesa. Photo: C. DeWitt and N. Olker



Sandhill crane photo, licensed by Tom Lynn

20 Years of Rural Preservation Partnership

by Erica Schmitz, Planning and Land Conservation Director

2017 marked not only 20 years of the Rural Preservation Program, but also our 20 year partnership with Groundswell Conservancy. You may know them as Natural Heritage Land Trust – they just recently changed their name (see article on this page).

This partnership is crucial to the success of the Town's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program. The PDR program allows the Town of Dunn to purchase available land divisions from willing landowners to permanently protect farmland, natural areas, and open space throughout the town. A conservation easement is the legal agreement used to execute PDR. PDR property remains in private ownership and is not open to the public.

The relationship with the landowner doesn't end when we seal the deal. In fact, that's just the beginning. Conservation easements are agreements in effect in perpetuity, which means forever. Each conservation easement comes with a unique set of restrictions meant to protect the conservation values of the property. The long-term success of the PDR program lies in making sure those rules and restrictions are followed as time moves forward, and as the property changes hands. That job falls to the "co-holders", the Town and Groundswell.

Each year, Town and Groundswell together pay a visit to every property in the PDR program to be sure the farmland and natural areas continue to be protected and the restrictions followed. Our PDR landowners are dedicated to conservation too, and we've very rarely found problems. But, if someone were to construct a building in an area it isn't allowed, or otherwise disobey the agreement, the Town and Groundswell must work with the landowner to bring the situation back into compliance.

Groundswell brings a wealth of land conservation experience to our partnership. They have also agreed to uphold the values of the PDR program by committing to monitor and enforce our conservation easements forever. If the Town is ever unable to participate in the future, Groundswell will be there, ensuring that the farms and natural areas we've worked hard to protect will stay open space for generations to come.

As we reflect on our 20 year partnership, we have nothing but gratitude for their efforts over the years that have helped us protect about 3,400 acres of farmland, natural area, and open space. This partnership has been essential to our success, and is even more important for the long term viability of our protected lands.

Natural Heritage Land Trust becomes Groundswell Conservancy

by Meg Nielsen

Natural Heritage Land Trust officially changed its name this October to Groundswell Conservancy, a name the organization hopes will represent everything the land trust is and does. Only the name has changed. The core purpose – to protect special places forever – remains the same.

"A groundswell is a coming together of like-minded individuals, and conservancy is a term that means more to people than Land Trust," said Heidi Habeger, Director of Major and Planned Gifts at Groundswell Conservancy. The organization hopes that groundswell will also convey how its participants' impact goes beyond "acres saved" to "lives changed."

"Conserving cherished places like the Town of Dunn farmland, Cherokee Marsh, and Black Earth Creek doesn't happen by accident, but because the community comes together to make it happen," said Jim Welsh, Groundswell Conservancy Executive Director.



**GROUNDSWELL
CONSERVANCY**

"The name creates a powerful identity that will help us enlarge our wonderful base of friends, supporters, and partners. With it, we can connect with young families, college students, urban youth, and environmentally conscious consumers with limited outdoor recreation experience - the conservation heroes that we will surely need tomorrow and in the years to come," Welsh wrote in a recent online newsletter.

Riparian Corridor Protection

What is a riparian buffer? Riparian buffers are strips of land (up to 300 feet wide) bordering streams, lakes, and other bodies of water. The most functional riparian buffers are vegetated with a variety of native plants, including trees and shrubs.

Why are riparian buffers important? Benefits derived from vegetated riparian buffers, especially forested buffers, include: filtering pollution from runoff; trapping excess soil and taking up nutrients; shading the water, keeping water temperatures cooler; acting like a sponge, soaking up rainwater, reducing flooding downstream and recharging groundwater; helping prevent erosion and loss of land; providing food and shelter for wildlife; absorbing noise from waterfront activity; and providing privacy and shade for picnicking and fishing.

The following list provides more detail about some of the primary functions riparian buffers provide in the landscape:

- **Trap sediment and take up nutrients.** Sediment that is filtered out of runoff from upland areas often carries contaminants that can be harmful to aquatic life and impair water quality. The soil also contains nutrients, excess concentrations of which can cause water quality and ecological health problems in the receiving waters. Riparian buffers can often break down these pollutants while utilizing the sediment and nutrients to improve soil conditions.
- **Protect and maintain stream banks.** Root mass from woody vegetation present in buffers helps to reduce soil loss from erosion along lake shorelines and stream banks. Vegetation from riparian buffers can also work in concert with stream channel functions to create new stream bank,

balancing what erosion does occur within the stream channel.

- **Water storage and energy dissipation.** Riparian buffers can reduce damage to property during flood events by slowing floodwaters. The root mass present in riparian buffers also promotes the absorption of water and helps to recharge nearby aquifers. Riparian buffers play an important role in regulating surface water flows by helping to hold and slowly release water following storm events.
- **Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution.** As noted in the first bullet, riparian buffers can filter various pathogens, pollutants and nutrients that are found in stormwater runoff. Often times, nutrients can be taken up by vegetation within the riparian area, which can promote additional vegetation in the buffer. This vegetation in turn can be used to process other potential pollutants before they enter the adjacent waterbody.
- **Provide wildlife habitat.** Riparian buffers offer a variety of mechanisms for habitat enhancement of both aquatic organisms and terrestrial wildlife. Areas where riparian buffers are intact can host a multitude of different organisms. When connected to other buffers and habitats, riparian areas can serve as corridors for the movement and distribution of wildlife. The continual cycle of nutrient uptake and recycling of compounds trapped aids in the diversity of vegetation present in the buffer and also helps create a varied age-class structure for vegetation present which in turn affects habitat features and organisms present in the buffer.

Source: hrwc.net/riparianbuffers.htm

Volunteer Opportunities

Town of Dunn Plan Commission

There is a vacancy on the Town of Dunn Plan Commission. If you are interested in applying to be appointed, please go to town.dunn.wi.us/permits-forms/ and click on "Committee/Commission Application". You can also contact Erica Schmitz at 838-1081 ext. 205 for more information about the Commission.

Senior Centers

Our area senior centers need volunteer help. Some opportunities include: drivers to take older adults to medical appointments, home meal driver substitutes, sewing volunteers, and kitchen volunteers. If you are in-

terested in volunteering, please contact the Senior Centers at McFarland (838-7117), Stoughton (873-8585), Oregon (835-5801), or Fitchburg (270-4290).

Stoughton EMS Position

Stoughton Area EMS is accepting applications for the stipend volunteer position of Emergency Medical Technician and Driver Only. More information will be presented at an open information session on November 4th at 10:00 a.m. at the Stoughton Area EMS (516 South Fourth Street, Stoughton). Call 608-873-6500 with any questions. If you are unable to attend, applications are available online at cityofstoughton.com.



RECYCLING GUIDE



Town of Dunn Transfer Site

4030 County Road B, about ¼ mile east of the Dunn Town Hall
Open the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month
8 AM to 4 PM

Also open Wednesdays
from 2 PM to 4:45 PM through November 22nd

The Transfer Site accepts:

Leaves and grass clippings - Put any compostable material in the compost pile at the Transfer Site, or compost them yourself at home.

Brush and Wood - We take brush and limbs that are free of soil. We cannot take stumps, lumber, or furniture. **Dane County's landfill will take tree stumps, construction material and many other large items. Call 838-9555 for information.**

Holiday Trees - Pellitteri will not pick up trees left at the curbside. Trees without tinsel, decorations, or stands can be taken to the Town Transfer Site.

Antifreeze - Used antifreeze that is free of oil is accepted.

Motor oil - Used motor oil that is free of other liquids is accepted. You can recycle plastic motor oil containers and oil filters at the transfer site.

Automotive Type & Rechargeable Batteries - Household batteries are not accepted.

Tires - We charge a fee based on our costs for disposal. At the time of this publication, auto tires were \$4 without rims and \$5 for tires with rims. Semi truck tires cost \$7 for disposal and tractor tires cost \$25. Tires (rims removed) can be taken to the Dane County Landfill for a small fee.

Appliances - We accept all appliances **EXCEPT FOR** TVs, electronics, water softeners, and dishwashers.

Scrap metal - Scrap iron, steel, copper, and other metals are accepted. We only accept motors after the gas and oil has been drained.

Questions? Call the Town Hall at 838-1081 extension 201

Clean Sweep Wisconsin

Clean Sweep is a Dane County-run place to bring hazardous household materials like TVs, paints, pesticides, and rechargeable batteries.

It is now open year round during the following times:

Monday-Friday: 7 am - 2:45 pm

Saturdays: 8 am - 10:45 am

Closed Sundays and Holidays

Located at 7102 US HWY 12, call 838-3212 for more information

The next Goodwill Industries Donation Pick Up is Scheduled: Saturday, December 2nd from 9 AM to 12 PM

A donation bin, provided by Goodwill,
will be located outside of the Town Hall front door.

*The Town will only accept donations
during the scheduled drop-off dates/times.*

Holiday Trash/Recycle Info

In a week that contains a Holiday, garbage & recycling pick up is delayed by one day. Please plan accordingly.

Med Drops

Unwanted and unused prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines can be dropped off at local police departments. Please call the following places for more information:

McFarland Police Department at 838-3151

Oregon Police Department at 835-3111

Stoughton Police Department at 873-3374

Recycling Information

**All recyclables should be
placed in your recycling cart**

Recyclable Metal & Glass

- Aerosol cans (empty)
- Aluminum cans & aluminum pie plates
- Glass bottles & jars (clear, blue, brown or green translucent glass)
- Metal pots & pans
- Small metal appliances (toasters, blenders, etc.) – nothing larger than a basketball
- Small metal plumbing fixtures & pipes (faucets, valves, pipes 2”-12” long)
- Tin & steel cans

Non-Recyclable Items

- Brake rotors / drums
- Deli containers - except #1 plastic
- Frozen food or microwave dinner plates
- Glassware & ceramics
- Metal items heavier than 10 pounds
- Mirrors & windows
- Motor oil & gasoline containers
- Plastic film, wrap & Styrofoam
- Misc.: Carpet, clothing, diapers, fishing line, food, hoses, ropes & shoes

Expanded Paper Recycling

- Cardboard (empty)
- Catalogs, magazines & phone books
- Cereal & cracker boxes (empty)
- Computer & office paper
- Envelopes & junk mail
- Holiday gift wrapping paper (no foils)
- Newspapers
- Paper egg cartons
- Paper grocery bags
- Paper milk and juice cartons or boxes
- Pizza boxes (no food or grease)
- Shredded paper (place in clear or transparent plastic bag and tie shut; a full bag should be smaller than a basketball)

Expanded Plastic Recycling

- All plastic bottles (no motor oils or gasoline)
- Plastic containers / cups #1-7, including #1 deli
- Plastic bags (grocery, newspaper, dry cleaning, etc. - no black or brown bags) - place clean, dry bags into a clear or transparent bag and tie shut; a full bag should be smaller than a basketball

Recycling Tips

- Should you choose to bag recyclables you place into the cart, please use clear or transparent bags and leave open – do not tie or seal. Clear bags can be purchased at most grocery and hardware stores.
- Do not flatten or crush plastic or metal items. Do not place smaller items inside larger containers. All items should be loose and empty. Remove all food waste, plastic, Styrofoam & packing peanuts.
- Flatten cardboard boxes and cereal boxes to make room in the recycling cart. Additional recyclables that don't fit in the cart may be put in clear plastic bags and placed next to your recycling cart. Large quantities of cardboard should be flattened and placed in clear plastics bags. Do not tie or bundle.
- Your recycling cart will not be picked up if it contains trash, yard waste or prohibited items.
- Visit www.pellitteri.com or call (608) 257-4285 for more information.

Other Recyclable Items

Appliances: Appliance pick up or drop off is available from Gary's Appliances, 4802 Dutch Mill Rd. Call 221-1150 for more information. Television Recycling is available at Resource Solutions (244-5451) or Dane County Clean Sweep (838-3212).

Hazardous Materials: Thermostats, paint, pesticides, poisons, solvents, ignitables, aerosols, sealants, fuel, oil and other hazardous materials must not end up in our landfill. Dispose of these items at Clean Sweep located at 7102 US Hwy 12 in Madison (across from Yahara Hills Golf Course). For further information call the recorded information line at 608-838-3212 or visit danecountycleansweep.com. For other possible drop off sites call the Wisconsin DNR at 275-3208.

Computers: Computers contain hazardous materials and should be recycled. Janssen Computers, 6350 Copps Ave, 222-9100 will take equipment for reuse or recycle. Cascade Asset Management accepts any and all computer and computer related equipment from businesses. Household computers are collected at semi-annual drop-offs in April and November. Call 222-4800 for more information.