

Town of Montrose
Dane County, Wisconsin
1341 Dianne Avenue
Belleville WI 53508

Report from Committee to Review the Comprehensive Plan

On August 13, 2026, the committee met. The meeting was called to order. All members were present. The members are Tim Bahls, Marie Barrie, Cory Brown, Deb Brucaya, Ann Sayles, Tim Schmitt and Bill Warner.

Marie Barry moved and Deb Brucaya seconded, that the report of the July 2, 2026 meeting be approved. Approval was unanimous.

This meeting was focused on the Land Use Plan (LUP) portion of the comprehensive plan.

The first issue addressed was whether this committee will recommend to the Town Board that the basic structure of the LUP remain as it is.

Marie Barry moved that we recommend that the Town of Montrose opt out of participation in the Dane County land use plan, and proceed independently Cory Brown seconded, for purposes of allowing discussion.

Marie noted that 6 townships in Dane County (Berry, Blue Mounds, Bristol, Springfield, Sun Prairie and Westport) have their own plans. She cited the now extremely high prices for property in Montrose, limiting the ability of small farmers and families to afford moving into the township. She also noted that decoupling from Dane County would allow much more flexibility in land use decision making. Deb Brucaya stated that she regards Dane County as providing a safety net to the Town as it and provides technical and other resources that the Town does not have. Tim S. noted that Dane County provides enforcement of land use decisions. Bill Warner stated that he thought that more flexibility would mean more building. . Ann stated that independence would require the Town to be the sole record keeper of land use records, and that and least two additional employees would have to be hired by the Town to plan and implement, on a budget that currently only supports two employees and cannot be increased without a referendum. **Tim B. moved to table the motion. The motion was not seconded. Ann called the question. On a roll call vote, Marie B., in favor; all other committee members, opposed. Motion defeated.**

The committee moved on to discuss what issues regarding the LUP it may want to study to see if changes should be recommended to the Town Board. We agree that we need updated demographic, economic, agricultural use, housing, and other factual information. Dane County has stated it can easily provide this information. Ann and Marie are meeting with the county planner, Bridgit VanBelleghem, on Wednesday August 19, and will pass on and information received.

Areas of interest include how/if to deal with stranded splits, and, more generally, with future land use in the town. Work also is needed the other 8 elements of the comprehensive plan.

Work to be done before the next meeting includes:

Subcommittee on Transfer of Development rights: Tim B., Deb and Bill.

Subcommittee on Purchase of Development rights: Marie, Cory and Ann

Information gathering on town economic info: Marie

Information gathering on housing, transport, ag, and cultural resources: Tim B

Providing final detail on splits available in the town: Ann

We normally have our meetings on the second Thursday of each month. Next meeting will be held Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Ann Sayles
Chair