



What Is Rural and Why Do We Care?

Editorial by Michael McDermott

The Town of Vermont is rural and that is critical to its citizens. What does this mean, why is it important, why do we care, and what do we need to do to keep it that way?

The state and most governmental agencies define rural strictly by population density. In this case no other features enter into the designation. The Town of Vermont fits this but we have many other things that make us rural. The most fundamental is agriculture but there are others. Aside from population and housing density there are the natural landscapes, vegetation, and creatures. For us this is very special as we are in the beginning of the Driftless Area. The valleys and ridges are unique in North America and increasingly well known to many. We have valuable wetlands and bountiful trout streams.

Agriculture is central to the town's history and essential to its present status for what we consider rural. As everyone knows ag is in crisis in Wisconsin and all over the country. Most of our town is zoned Ag Exclusive and is the basis for the 35 acres per pdr (pdr means a potential development right-usually that leads to a housing site). We still have a handful of full working farms, mostly dairy, and much rented land for both crops and grazing. Most of the land zoned ag is in woodlands, some of which is in timber production. Protecting ag, whether full farms or rented land, is absolutely critical to what most of

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us consider rural. The general situation with agriculture and local population pressures are issues that threaten this element.

Certainly, the beauty and sight lines of the natural features are important to all of us, but the land goes much further, holding critical landforms as well as valuable plants and animals, some of which are threatened in one way or another. Protecting ridgetops and highly erodible slopes is an important consideration to maintain rural character as we see it. Wetlands hold important plant species that are found in few other places. Our streams, threatened by runoff and erosion, as well as development, hold species that draw anglers from beyond the town. Prairie restoration has produced large and small public areas such as Pleasant Valley Conservancy or Rettenmund Prairie - both state protected areas. Many landowners have restored prairie and large swaths of wildflowers. These add to the rural character.

have small "cottage industries" appropriate to the rural scene, including honey and maple syrup production, artists, and jewelers. Locally grown products for farmer's markets and sales from the farm are common. Tyrol Basin ski and snowboard area is a rural setting business. These endeavors not only fit into the appearance but draw people to the town which is crucially important for broader support to keep that rural character. The same applies to visitors like the bicyclists, prairie hikers, and extended family members.

What can we do to protect the rural character? First and foremost, encourage and protect agriculture. This means making allowances on the limits of machinery necessary for farming, seeing the value in natural fertilizer going on the fields, and being very careful about zoning changes that threaten ag lands. Housing density must be respectful of other homes nearby and realizing that the low density and beauty we seek is dependent on preserving the natural features of our section of the Driftless Area.

We live in a country that is losing natural beauty from population pressures, industry, and bad land management. The Town of Vermont is an example of how we can preserve our rural character. We have an opportunity to keep the views, prairies, right sized ag, and the density we enjoy, but it is our responsibility to change this very carefully, not only for us but even for our world. In the coming year Vermont's Voice will explore these issues and give information and support careful changes in our land. Please get involved in thinking and discussing these issues and participate in how we might change things.

A Locally-Designed Land Use Plan – Time to Update a Survey of Your Views

By: Karen Carlock

Within the Town of Vermont, there has been a strong sense of community and great importance placed on the preservation of the character of our township.

A "sense of community" is fluid. It is created by people and their actions and values. In Vermont, as everywhere, this sense of community evolves over time; a shared fabric is created by those who have lived here many years, a few years or have just arrived. With each new individual or family, the current residents as well as newcomers have a decision to make as to whether or not they wish to further promote this sense of community by how they choose to engage with one another.

The same process applies to preserving the character of our township. Vermont has a long history of engagement in both local and county government, in how we take care of our natural environment and in our community organizations. One example of this commitment is consistently high voter turnout in many elections. This does not mean that all Vermont residents are like-minded on all issues, but it does indicate that many of residents have made a decision to be involved.

In preparation for the development of the Town of Vermont's 2007 Comprehensive Land Use Plan, a survey was sent out to each Vermont household to gather information on their vision for the community. The response rate for that survey was an outstanding 69%. The results of that survey indicate that the majority of residents either strongly support or somewhat support the four goals that are included in the land use plan:

- 1) Maintaining and preserving the rural character of the Town (96%)
- 2) Preserving agricultural opportunities (94%)
- 3) Protecting the environment (98%)

4) Protecting and preserving the natural beauty of the Town (96%)

Survey questions were selected in order to provide guidance for housing development, commercial development, regulations and ordinances, road investments and environmental investments. When reviewing the Town of Vermont's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, one can see that community input from the 2005 survey has been incorporated. The guidelines in the Land Use Plan have been developed based on input from Vermonters in order to uphold the vision that the community has for this township.

Additionally, the Town of Vermont, as a part of Dane County, is subject to Dane County Zoning and the various zoning districts that make up the county. Dane County also oversees Shoreland & Erosion Control requirements. The Town may help identify that an applicant and/or property owner will need to work with Dane County Shoreland & Erosion Control but the Town will not be involved in that review process.

One other key component of Land Use planning in the Town of Vermont is that in 1985 the Town adopted a Farmland Preservation Plan, based on Chapter 91 of Wisconsin State Statutes.

The entire township is designated as a farmland preservation district which means that at least 80% of the property within the township must have a zoning category of either Farmland Preservation (FP) 35 or Farmland Preservation (FP) 1.

The designation of the township as a farmland preservation district was also designed to decrease potential housing density by allocating potential development rights (PDRs) to property owners at a rate of roughly 1 PDR for every 35 acres. (Labeled potential because a house site also has to meet certain driveway specifications and more.) This does not mean that each home must be on a 35-acre parcel but it does have the intended effect of preserving roughly 35 acres of land for every 1 home that is built within the township.

One must of course acknowledge that a shared community vision does not always result in a shared approach for attaining that vision. Reaching a consensus on how best to tactically ensure that the vision is upheld is more difficult.

Segments of property owners may feel more or less strongly about varying facets of building restrictions or land preservation. Therefore, the planning commission is a committee that serves on behalf of the Town Board of Supervisors and is made up of community members who often have differing viewpoints. The hope is that through the course of detailed and educated discussion in conjunction with civilized debate that the vision of the community is maintained.

However, regular community input is also incredibly valuable to ensure that the vision of the community is consistently at the forefront.

It has been 15 years since the most recent land use survey, and 2020 seems like the appropriate time for a follow up survey. Additionally, the Town Board would like to facilitate a discussion regarding land use at a town meeting as soon as community members are able to gather face-to-face again.

Open dialogue and community engagement are critical to our continued success as a community. Please consider spending a moment to complete the land use survey when it arrives by mail with the next month or so – our strong desire is for all community voices to be represented.

Land Use in the Town of Vermont: Plan Commission Streamlines the Application Process

by Judy Robb, Plan Commission Member

The Plan Commission is a local governmental body with an important function in our township. The Plan Commission is charged with maintaining the comprehensive land use plan, reviewing land use applications, and providing reports and recommendations to the Town Board related to planning and development. Plan Commission members are appointed by the Town Chairperson at the June Town Board meeting for three-year terms.

When reviewing land use applications, the Plan Commission and the Town Board use the tenets of the Town's Comprehensive Land Use Plan as guiding principles for decision-making. The Land Use Plan "...provides a framework to guide Town leaders and landowners in making land-use decisions that respect the rights of landowners while preserving and enhancing those qualities that make the town a special place to live and work."

In recent years, the Plan Commission has spent much time and focus on improving the transparency and clarity of the land use request process through the revision of application forms and the development of application instructions and checklists. The application process improvements are designed with the goal of adhering to the principles in the land use plan and making those principles front and center for applicants and for the commission members reviewing the petition.

The Planning Commission has recently completed an overhaul of the Town of Vermont Land Use Intent Application Form and the Land Use Intent Application Checklist. The forms are now interactive or may be printed and completed by hand. The application checklist provides extensive detail and valuable resources to help ensure Land Use Intent Applications are completed appropriately.

While it can often seem that forms developed by an organization or governmental entity inadvertently make a process more difficult for an applicant, the intent with the new Land Use Application Form is to provide a clear checklist and easy-to-access application instructions. Additionally, as a small community with a relatively low number of land use requests, the Town of Vermont has the flexibility to offer individual support to applicants who have any questions as they go through the application process.

The Plan Commission secretary or any member of the Plan Commission can provide support as you begin the land use application process. Information regarding Land Use and the revised forms may be found here:

<https://www.vermonttownship.com/land-use>

Fishing Etiquette

By Gary Cox

We are blessed in Vermont Township to have an abundance of wonderful trout streams within the township and surrounding areas. Trout fishing is typically a solitary sport, but it is not unusual to run into other residents fishing on streams. With the current focus on social distancing, stream fishing is a great way to spend some relaxing time outside. This may increase the frequency that anglers see each other, and sooner or later someone will end up fishing at someone else's favorite spot. It's helpful to remind ourselves that we are out to relax and have fun, and a confrontational encounter will not serve anyone's best interest. Here are some basic guidelines for streamside etiquette. The basic underlying principle is, let's have fun out there and make sure we don't spoil someone else's fun.

Stream Fishing Etiquette

If you see someone else on the stream, stop and watch from a distance. If it seems that you could approach and not disturb their fishing, move in close enough to talk without yelling, being careful not to spoil the water they may be heading toward.



Ask politely if you may jump in and fish a proper distance away. How close is too close? If you can see the other fisherman, you are too close.

For me, if I stop at a spot that I had my heart set on fishing that day, and I see another vehicle parked there, I will use it as an opportunity to try another stretch of water that I have not fished as often or ever. I fish almost every day in season and there are still stretches of creek that I have never fished. There are a lot of miles of waterway out there, get out and explore them.

Landowner Etiquette

Many streams flow through private property. Recognize that access is a privilege, not a right. Respect private property. If you are unsure about access, ask the landowner politely. On farm properties don't trample crops, disturb livestock, or leave gates open.

Leave no litter at stream side. In fact, get in the habit of picking up discarded cans and other trash, carry them out, and discard them properly.

These streams are beautiful, precious resources, and the wild fish that inhabit them are rare treasures that we should steward wisely. Let's consider that a legal limit is not a quota. Let your fishing motto be: Limit your kill; don't kill your limit.

Town of Vermont Garlic Mustard Control

By Jim Elleson

Garlic mustard is a highly invasive plant that spreads rapidly once it gains a foothold in our woodlands. It can completely cover the forest floor in a short time and can displace most native wildflowers and tree seedlings within 5 years. (For additional information, see the Wisconsin DNR website at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/fact/GarlicMustard.html>)

The Town of Vermont has been working to control the spread of garlic mustard along our town roads for many years.

We know that we don't have the budget or the labor force to completely eliminate garlic mustard from our roadways. It is already too well established on adjacent lands. Our objective is to stop seed production in the right-of-ways as much as we can, to keep the Town mower from spreading seeds to other landowners' properties.



After 12 years of treatment, we have been successful at meeting this goal. There are still a few areas that have pretty dense patches in the right-of-ways, especially where there is a massive infestation on the adjacent land. For the most part, though, we are finding just scattered patches and clumps, with long stretches where there is no garlic mustard at all.

We are currently using a mixture of Oust (sulfometuron), Escort (metsulfuron), and Garlon (triclopyr) herbicides for treatment. This mixture is targeted to kill the garlic mustard plants, and to prevent seeds from germinating the next year. We spot-spray the plants with backpack sprayers, and we use an average of about 30 gallons of mix per year. This equates to about 0.1 gallons of mix per acre of total area.

Residents who want to control garlic mustard on their own properties can do so by pulling, mowing, or applying herbicide. Pull the plants when they are flowering. Mow close to the ground after flowering has begun. If seeds have begun to form, they may continue developing into viable seeds even after the plant is pulled or cut, so proper disposal is important. I like to pile the plants to dry in a place where I can burn them, and where I can later eliminate any seedlings that crop up.

The best time to apply herbicide is generally in mid-April to mid-May, after the garlic mustard rosettes leaf out but before they set seeds. Glyphosate (Roundup) is an herbicide that is readily available to landowners. Mix it at 3 oz concentrate per gallon of water. Spray carefully if desirable plants are nearby - glyphosate will kill anything green that it contacts.

If you see our crews on the roads this spring, give them a wave, and thank them for helping keep garlic mustard out of your woods!

Vermont resident Jim Elleson is the founder of Quercus Land Stewardship Services, a local business dedicated to helping landowners improve the ecological health of their land. He can be contacted at jim@quercus-ls.com.

The 2020 Annual Spring Art Tour is Canceled; Will Return Strong in 2021

By Tamlyn Akins

This year's Spring Art Tour, originally scheduled for June 5-7, 2020, has been cancelled due to Covid-19. It included 35 participating artists – the highest number ever! This was partly due to the fact that for the first time the art tour, sponsored by the Mount Horeb Area Arts Association, invited artists from throughout Wisconsin to participate, with tour locations to include these guest artists.

Two tour artists are from right here in Vermont Township -- Tamlyn Akins who has been a part of the tour since its beginning in 2007, and Judy Robb who is on the tour route this year for her first time.



Tamlyn Akins knew at a young age she would become an artist. Having studied in both the arts and crafts, she is an artist with many interests. Among Tamlyn's specialties are florals, animal portraits, "naturescapes," and mandalas (meditative symmetrical designs). In addition to fine art media, she enjoys creating jewelry and origami forms.

Tour location: 4629 County Road JJ, Black Earth, WI 53515

Read more about Tamlyn <http://mhaaa.org/artists/akins.html>

Judy Robb is an artist whose work is representative of her daily life and encounters in Wisconsin's Driftless Region and beyond. Her art represents the things that inspire and convey emotion for any given day. Landscapes, woodlands, fauna, flora, people past and present and in dreams. Judy works in oil and paints on a whim, an idea she has pondered, or an inspiration found in nature.

Tour location: 4335 County Road JJ, Black Earth, WI 53515

Read more about Judy <http://mhaaa.org/artists/robb.html>



Contact Tamlyn at tamlyn@chorus.net, 608-767-1281

Contact Judy at judy@vandehoney.com, 608-338-3106

A Recent History of the Vermont Lutheran Church

by Jon Urness

As recently as seventy-five years ago, up to and including the World War II years, Vermont was a pretty homogeneous group of residents. Virtually everyone was involved in dairy farming. Most tended perhaps 15-30 dairy cows, maybe a half-dozen sows and most likely a flock of chickens. It was rare for anyone to work off the farm or outside the township.

Within that population of dairy farmers there were social sub-communities, often defined by the cheese factories where these same farmers delivered their freshly filled milk cans on a daily basis. It was a good place to meet the other farmers in the area and catch up on local news. In addition, one-room schools dotted the township and became hubs of social activity. At the same time, painting with a very broad stroke, most residents fell into one of two groups - the Irish Catholics in the western and southern side of the township, and the Norwegian Lutherans in the eastern and northern portion of the town. St. James Catholic Church, on County Road F, destroyed by a lightning strike many years ago, served the largely Irish families while Vermont Lutheran Church in Section 11, just off State Highway 78 served the Norwegians. While their church building is long gone, the people of St. James are still a very cohesive group, as evidenced by the large gathering at their cemetery each Memorial Day.



Vermont Lutheran Church carries on and still is the center for a sub-community within the town. We'll talk a little about the early beginnings of the congregation and the buildings. And then about the current and future significance of Vermont Church going forward.

While the recorded establishment of Vermont Lutheran Congregation is stated as 1856, there were gatherings of newly arrived Norwegian immigrants as early as the 1840's, predating the establishment of Vermont as a Township in 1855. (as a side note, very early maps and documents show Vermont Township as "Hobart Township").

Those early gatherings occurred in homes and occasionally were presided over by circuit riding Norwegian clergy whose primary duty was to perform marriages, baptisms and funerals. The 1850 census showed 375 Norwegians living in the five western most Townships of Dane County including Vermont, Blue Mounds, Primrose, Perry and Springdale. As the Norwegian population grew, there was a need for a building of worship. An unused schoolhouse became available in the village of Black Earth so the members decided to buy it and hold services there. Soon, it was decided to move the structure closer to the Norwegian populace in Vermont. Twenty teams of oxen owned by church members skidded the building to a place known as "Rust." (pronounced *roost* with a liberal rolling of the R). Rust was a farm name in Section 12 north of the intersection of State Highway 78 and present-day Union Valley Road near the Myron Norslein farm. Even that small frame building was outgrown so it was voted to build a new church on the hill, about 1/4-mile east of the current church building, designated by a historical marker today. The building of the new church was a slow project as the build dates coincided almost exactly with the Civil War years. The cost was \$802.90 but that kind of money was not available in the congregation treasury and it would have been unheard of to borrow such a sum. So, church leadership assessed each member-family \$2 for each 40 of land owned plus 50-cents per \$100 of valuation. This wooden framed structure was used until 1913 when the congregation moved to the current church.

The building of the second and current new church was not without controversy as the fiscally and spiritually conservative Norwegians wanted to build a very simple, un-decorated and austere sanctuary to hold worship services. Norwegian-born Reverend Severin Gunderson though, believed and stated as such, that a more appropriate building that would bring greater glory to God, should be built which resulted in the current architecturally interesting and artfully decorated building. After a

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certain amount of wrangling, one church leader finally stated, "I make a motion we appoint Reverend Gunderson to be a committee of one to build a church", to which the Reverend agreed.

The cornerstone of the new church is dated 1913. Lots of modernization has occurred to both the interior and exterior of the building over the years but the interior sanctuary remains as Reverend Gunderson envisioned. Indoor bathroom facilities were added in the early 1950's but the outhouses, which stood north and east of the current Gathering Place building, remained. There was discussion of demolishing them at a church council meeting in the mid-1960's but one council member insisted at least one be retained, "just in case". A compromise resulted in one being removed, perhaps as fuel for a high school homecoming bonfire, but the other was relocated to the woods just west of the church building. It likely was never "used" but the decision at least moved discussion forward.

The next large physical improvement occurred in the 1990's when the front entrance was renovated to accommodate disabled church visitors with elevator system access. Fifteen years later the Gathering Place was built, mostly by member labor. This warmly decorated and inviting facility handles groups of up to about sixty people and has helped bridge relationships between the church and community through various events not specifically intended for church membership. One such regular occurring activity has been monthly "Cabin Fever Relievers" during the winter months where folks show photos and tell tales about their travels during the year and are attended by many community members.

Being a vital player in the future of the community is a challenge many churches take seriously, including Vermont's leadership. Vermont township resident and long-time member (and often-time president) of the congregation, Peter Antonie, lists a few mission activities that go beyond conventional worship activities.

- Providing school kits containing supplies for Black Earth Elementary School students
- Dozens of quilts made by members and sent to worldwide relief organizations
- 2018 community flood relief
- Establishment of an Endowment Fund for aid to individuals, organizations and projects in need
- Annual Lutefisk Dinner with proceeds going to outreach organizations
- Special collections directed to worldwide relief organizations
- Annual men's meatball dinner with proceeds going to mission outreach such as Luke House

Most recently, church leadership committed to surveying members to help find out what can be done locally to deal with the corona virus pandemic. The survey also asks members what they might be able to do to aid other members of the community in that regard.

According to Pastor Barry Hoertz, Vermont Lutheran's spiritual leader, 14% of the congregation's 2019 budget went to aid for persons and organizations outside of membership. Pastor Barry concludes,

"Like many other churches, a main reason for our existence is to serve the community around us. We believe that we have been commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves and especially those in need. At the same time, we depend on our neighbors to help support us physically, spiritually and financially in order that we might provide our support and aid in return. It is a symbiotic relationship; we work so well together, and we are so grateful for our neighbors who make our existence possible."

The Town of Vermont Advisory Committee on Energy Planning Works for Our Environmental Wealth

By Warren Gaskill

At a loss for what you can do when so much in our world seems so out of control? What can you do in the reality of climate change, and now the COVID-19 pandemic? It seems overwhelming.

There is at least some satisfaction in taking action where you can, here, locally. That has been the focus of the Town of Vermont Advisory Committee on Energy Planning. The committee members include David Stanfield, Barbara Borns, Peter Antonie, and Warren Gaskill, all long-time residents of Vermont Township.

The committee's goals were approved last summer by the Town Board. The focus has been on helping the community take steps to reduce consumption of electricity generated from burning fossil fuels. This would reduce electricity costs and the impact of the CO2 build-up on our environment, as evidenced locally by the major flooding from Middleton to Mazomanie in 2018, and last year's record rainfall that challenged area farmers.

There have been two primary areas of attention:

- 1) Encourage the electric utilities that serve Town of Vermont residents - Black Earth Utility, Mt. Horeb Utility, Alliant Energy, and Madison Gas & Electric - to add renewable energy sources to their respective grid supplies to lower costs for utility rate payers and decrease reliance on fossil fuel sources of coal and natural gas.

Both Black Earth Utility and Mt. Horeb Utility buy their electricity from regional utilities—Alliant for Black Earth and WPPI for Mt. Horeb. Conversations with the local utilities on building their own solar fields and introducing that solar generated electricity into their grids are in the initial stages. Neither Alliant nor WPPI is especially receptive to the idea of the local utilities introducing their own solar into the local utility grids. Even so, there are some mutual benefits, and conversations continue.

- 2) Empower residents to be as energy efficient as possible by providing information about existing resources and incentives for homeowners and businesses to update appliances and equipment, cost effective technology and building standards that provide the quickest payback and to learn more about on-site solar energy installation, benefits and payback potential.

To engage local residents on efficiency and renewable energy opportunities, a series of three monthly "Climate Action Workshops" were developed and have been offered.

While we first thought the workshops would be offered just to Town of Vermont residents, we quickly realized the workshops had much to offer other interested parties in our surrounding area. Others locally joined the Town of Vermont in supporting this. They include the towns of Cross Plains and Middleton, the Village of Cross Plains Sustainability Committee, Black Earth Creek Watershed Association, Gateway to the Driftless, Legacy Solar Cooperative, Dane County Office of Climate and Energy, and Wisconsin Focus on Energy.

Up-to-date information on all three workshops is on the Town of Vermont website at <https://www.vermonttownship.com/community/energy>. Included there are recordings of the webinars, "lessons learned" from those in the Township who have already installed renewable energy systems at their homes, and a few useful website links.

The first workshop, attended by over 50 individuals on February 25, 2020 at Wisconsin Heights Middle/High School, highlighted actions being taken now to combat the effects of climate change, both nationally and locally. It included the unveiling of Dane County's new and ambitious Climate Action Plan, now being rolled out.

The second workshop on March 31 used a webinar format so people could participate from the safety of their own homes. It highlighted practical steps and incentives for any business, farm, or home to reduce its energy costs, with examples from the Ice Age Trail Alliance headquarters building in Cross Plains, the Driftless Historium building in Mount Horeb, Saeman Lumber in Cross Plains. The presentation and discussion were led by our regional Focus on Energy representative, Chris Seitz.

Seitz emphasized the importance of starting with a simple, basic walkthrough of your home or business, jotting down whether or not the lights are the most efficient LED type; the age, type, and model of your furnace or air conditioner; the quality of your windows (loose? leaky?), or the levels of insulation in walls and attic.

Once you have the “current situation” in hand, you can check out the pros and cons of updating to more currently energy efficient standards. Then you may calculate the expected first-time cost and compare annual operating cost of more energy efficient options with the operating cost of your current energy use, and the time to payback that first-time cost.

There are many incentives available from Focus on Energy (funded by Wisconsin utilities) to help reduce those first-time costs. Full details are found at <https://www.focusonenergy.com>

The third and final workshop in the series, also a webinar, was scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, highlighting adding renewable energy resources to your own home, small business, or farm. The advantages and disadvantages of local solar plus storage facilities for utilities were also part of the agenda.

Hopefully this work will make it easier for many more to help make a real and positive difference for our energy future thus, mitigating the effects of climate change in our area.

Cardinal Hickory Creek Update

by Frank Sandner

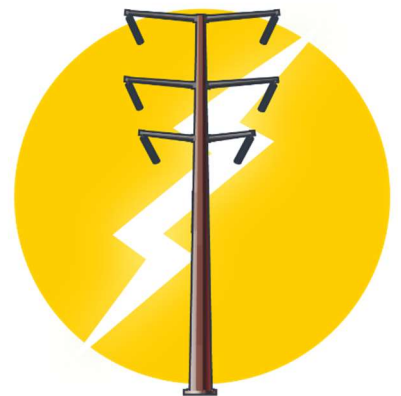
There are five court appeals filed against the Wisconsin Public Service Commission challenging the commissioners' decision to approve the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line. Those lawsuits are likely to be consolidated in Dane County Circuit Court.

This immense transmission line will run up Brigham's main street—Highway 151—and will have a huge effect on Town of Brigham residents. ATC, a private company, has the right to take land for its use by eminent domain. Driftless Area Land Conservancy strongly suggests that property owners under the CHC route don't sign anything until consulting an attorney and a land appraiser. In previous cases, landowners discovered—too late—they had signed away more rights than they knew. Landowners don't have to sign any documents as presented. They should consult with a lawyer about the contract and any other requests by the transmission company or their agents.

Some of the groups suing to reverse the PSC's decision are The Driftless Area Land Conservancy, Iowa County, Dane County, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Town of Wyoming, and Village of Monfort.

There are many grounds for the suits. At the top of the list:

- the PSC failed to prove a need for this line.
- In addition, the decision to approve this line;
- is contrary to law;
- depends on erroneous interpretation of law;
- is unsupported by substantial evidence in the record;
- depends on facts determined without a hearing;
- is outside the range of discretion of the PSC;
- does not meet PSC rule, policy, and practice;
- favors out-of-state energy resources;
- violates constitutional rights;
- was issued without an adequate Environmental Impact Statement;
- and includes material errors of law and fact.



The suits tell a story of ATC promoting the CHC transmission line as needed, green, and cost effective. Challengers say in truth it is none of those. The PSC's decision favors stockholders, not the public. The hype is self-serving and CHC is a very lucrative project for ATC, bought for them by all of us who pay a power bill.

VERMONT'S VOICE

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Mission Statement: It is the mission of Vermont's Voice to provide information about our town and articles of interest to the residents of our town in order to promote a sense of community, encourage participation in and understanding of town government, and improve communication among residents. Vermont's Voice is a volunteer, citizen-run publication that encourages and depends on citizen participation in providing information, articles, or suggestions for articles, photos and criticism. Vermont's Voice is not the official voice or viewpoint of the town government.

Lisa, Michael and Dean

Keep up to date on town ordinances, meetings and other business at <http://www.townofvermont.com>.

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