

Freedom Matters

A Weekly Newsletter

Dane County, Wisconsin

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We are a free people in a republic, under a constitution which limits the powers of government to those necessary to secure the unalienable rights of each person to their life, liberty and property. Yet, when a legislature is in session, no one's life, liberty or property is safe. It's the curse of a democracy. That's why we have a republic instead. *Freedom Matters* dedicates itself to the fight to restore our republic. Most of the press and courts fail to do so. They've forgotten that freedom matters.

The Last Town Hall in Springdale

by Bob Bowman

Last Monday night in Springdale, the Green Greeds took over and the WYIMs ate up the farmers. As you might imagine, it was not a pretty sight.

How did it happen? About 140 people packed into the Springdale town hall for a joint meeting of their plan commission and town board, set to hold a public hearing on a proposed land use plan and a proposed land division ordinance.

Chair Ed Eloranta took the first 25 minutes to present his rosy and pollyannish view of what amounted to Green Greed for other people's land. Then the public hearing was opened on the new land use plan, a purported amendment to the 1981 land use plan.

At that, 38 people gave their public input, 29 of them in support of the plan. It was ceremonial. The supporters generally praised the plan and ordinance as a "compromise." It was not a compromise at all, to the many who were opposed. Of the 9 who spoke in opposition, some spoke guardedly, but some spoke with the anguish of a people betrayed.

A public hearing was then held on the land division ordinance. Only 13 spoke, 8 in support. Why only 13, when the ordinance, being law, was by far the more damning document? That restraint underscored the mood throughout the room, as if people knew they were watching some of their neighbors, as well as a way of life, being led to the slaughter.

This was the slaughter. Those with farms were watching \$2.5 million dollars in land value for each 100 acres they owned being stripped from them by the proposed ordinance, without any compensation. For most of them, it was most of what they owned.

Thus it spoke the epitome of Green Greed when Chair Eloranta said he was proud of what the board had done. Others in the room could only lament at how far this country has sunk.

Then the plan commission acted. Two of its members, farmers, spoke to deplore what the land use plan and ordinance took from the farmers. One of its members, also a farmer, declared with defiance that all he wanted to do was farm and never develop his land, for which he supported the plan to strip away his fiscal worth and that of his neighbors. A strange defiance, as if he knew he was doing wrong.

The plan commission then voted 6 to 3 to adopt the land use plan and to recommend the ordinance.

People started to leave, in droves.

As people left, the town board met, and with no debate, adopted the land use plan and ordinance, 3-0, and adjourned. Applause broke out in the audience. It apparently came from the 29 who spoke in support of the plan and ordinance, because the majority of those in the room did not applaud.

This town meeting was more than a clash of cultures. It revealed the corruption eating away our law, and the communization eating away our land.

Over the years, the farmers and natives of Springdale practiced their property rights by selling parcels to Madison professionals who wanted to live in the countryside. These urbanites brought with them an entirely different philosophy of property rights.

Their philosophy is that they own everything they see.: "What's Yours Is Mine." They are WYIMs.

That is an insidious philosophy, and it even infects a few of the farmers and natives of Springdale. Still, the core of the Springdale WYIMs seemed to be urbanites seen as White Yuppie Ingrate Misfits. It's a syndrome of traits often seen together.

Right now, the WYIMs in Springdale are flush with victory. What they don't see is that in weakening property rights with their land use plan and ordinance, in order to seize land from the farmers, they also weakened their own property rights. They seem unconcerned by that, as if they are secure by being grandfathered in. Oh, how wrong they be.

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Readers' Bulletin Board. e-mail us your comments. Include your name, for publication by *Freedom Matters*

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The Springdale WYIMs as predators eating up property rights are not the top dog. The DNR is far more voracious. It is putting in place a plan to take over all state woodlands, including all private woods. Also in the legislature right now is a bill empowering the DNR to designate "environmental corridors" throughout the state, within which all human habitation will be banned. In drooling anticipation of that, the land use plans prepared for Berry, Dane, Mazomanie, Roxbury and Springfield by Vandewalle & Associates, hired by Kathleen Falk, includes the banning of new houses in the DNR-designated "environmental corridors."

By the equal protection of the law, what is banned for one is banned for all. Thus, existing homes in woodlands "managed" by the DNR, or in "environmental corridors" designated by the DNR will also be banned. That makes existing homes non-conforming, destroying half or more of their market value, and in a few years more, they will disappear.

So the WYIMs are cutting their own throats, just as the NIMBYs are cutting theirs. The political will to use zoning as an exclusionary tool is turning around to bite the butts of those who forged its legalized theft of property rights.

Within 5 to 10 years, given the political forces presently on the move, the WYIMs who ate up the farmers in Springdale will be sitting in their own anguish, their precious homes all eaten up by the environmental extremism they helped put in place. It will be done by laws administered through the DNR and enforced on the WYIMs as smugly and as callously as the WYIMs enforced last Monday night in Springdale on farmers who had taken them in.

James DeLong said it most forcefully, in his book "Property Matters" (p. 10).

"In *A Man for All Seasons*, Robert Bolt's great play about the sixteenth century conflict between King Henry VIII and Archbishop Thomas More, More's son-in-law says he would be willing to cut down all the laws of England if necessary to get the Devil. More rejoins, 'And when the last law was down, and the Devil turned round on you -- where would you hide ... the laws all being flat? This country's planted thick with laws from coast to coast ... and if you cut them down ... d'you really think you could stand upright in the winds that would blow then? Yes, I'd give the Devil the benefit of the law, for my own safety's sake.'

We here at *Freedom Matters* do not feel sorry for the WYIMs. They deserve to lose what they are taking from others -- their freedoms.

Contents of Freedom Matters Nov. 26, 2001 to March 15, 2002

Nov. 26, 2001, v1, #12.

A Call for More Readers. By Mike Byrne.

Inclusionary Zoning. By Bob Bowman

Contents of Freedom Matters. 9/10/01 to 11/26/01.

Dec. 3, 2001, v1, #13. Legalized Plunder & the Modern State: A Brief Review of Bastiat's "The Law." By Bob Bowman

Dec. 10, 2001, v1, #14. The Christian Charity of Hauge's Church, as Revamped by Kathleen Falk. By Mike Byrne

Dec. 17, 2001, v1, #15. Geopolitical Update: Civilization Is Not the Enemy! By Mike Byrne & Bob Bowman. [This was the last Issue of Vol. 1.]

Jan. 4, 2002, v2, #1. The Town of Perry Troubles. A letter from Fred Smith, Perry resident.

Jan. 11, 2002. v2, #2. The Curfew Tolls. What Troubles Will It Solve? What Troubles Will It Make? By Mike Byrne

Jan. 18, 2002. v2, #3. Town Boards That Violate Law. By Bob Bowman

Jan. 25, 2002. v2, #4. Land Use Planning: A Trojan Horse for Socialism. By Mike Byrne

Feb. 1, 2002, v2, #5. The Return to Feudal Tenure. By Bob Bowman

Feb. 8, 2002, v2, #6. The Case Against County Exercise of Zoning Powers via Deed Restrictions. By Bob Bowman

Feb. 15, 2002, v2, #7. Risk Management: The Nationhood Under Fire. By Michael Byrne

Feb. 22, 2002, v2, #8. Smart Growth: A \$100 Million Mandate. Letters by Marilyn Hayman and by the Dane County Towns Association.

Mar. 1, 2002. v2, #9. A Lighting Bolt of Reality. The Forced Relocation of Rural Population. By J. Zane Walley

Mar. 8, 2002, v2, #10. Is Springdale, Its Planning Commission and Its Town Board Creating Its Own Nightmare? By Bob Bowman & Michael Byrne