

Town of Barton Smart Growth Kickoff Meeting

S.W.O.T. Workshop Results

January 4, 2006

Residents attending the Town of Barton Smart Growth Kickoff meeting had an opportunity to participate in a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (S.W.O.T.) assessment of their community. Residents worked in groups of 6-10 people brainstorming issues on each component of the S.W.O.T. workshop. After each component, groups were asked to “*” three issues that were of most importance that they would like to share with the entire group of participants. The following is the result of that workshop.

Strengths: Something that makes a community stand out when compared to other communities; Resources or capabilities that help a community be successful/strong.

- *Rural small town atmosphere
- *Abundance of woodlands
- *Scenery – (Kettle Moraine)
- *Wildlife
- *Clean air
- *Interstate/city accessibility
- *Small government
- *Proximity to tech. and university, library – and airport
- *Good medical facilities
- *Outdoor recreations
- *Strong sense of ownership and involvement in town government
- *Recreational opportunities
- *Natural resources – geographical appeal
- *Self reliant and helpful residents “interdependence”
- *Central location in S.E. WI to larger metropolitan areas and bypass
- Close location to metro
- Scenic
- Active farm land
- Milwaukee river
- Lower property taxes
- People
- Hwy 41/45 access
- Strong local govt.
- Green space
- Close to good education (ex. Moraine Park and UWWC)
- Hwy 45
- Land has value, holds its value
- Proximity to shopping, education (MPTC, UWWC), entertainment, etc.
- Varied geography – hills, etc.
- Proximity to bypass
- “Small town” atmosphere

Weaknesses: Deficiencies in resources for a community to be successful.

- Fire and rescue could be stronger and better organized
- Diversified tax base – need more industrial
- Lack of good paying jobs
- Town of Barton is smaller in size
- Township is becoming geographically separated –isolated east to west w/West Bend in middle
- Small area
- Not incorporated
- Too attractive for development
- Lack of local job opportunities
- Apathetic people
- Lack of businesses in township
- Distance to new hospital
- Lack of resources (e.g. natural)
- Lack of community participation
- Traffic control on “D”
- Mobile access for elderly (cabs or vans?)
- Waste disposal (lack of collection)(no big item disposal)
- Lack of extraterritorial zoning rights for town
- Lack of diversity in housing types
- Limited fire and police services

Town of Barton Smart Growth Kickoff Meeting

S.W.O.T. Workshop Results

January 4, 2006

Opportunities: Something that could be done to improve a community; Factors or situations that can affect a community in a favorable way.

- Hwy 45 offers potential growth for commercial/industrial uses to relieve residential tax burden
- Abundance and variety of land for all kinds of uses – farming, residential, commercial, industrial, recreational
- Small local government offers accessibility to citizens
- Work to implement P.D.R. program to retain farmland
- Improve existing roads rather than new roads
- Continue/increase land trust program
- Continue with Cluster Development – encourage
- Encourage smart commercial development compatible with town
- Improved roads
- Provide more elderly housing
- Provide off-road vehicle trails
- Maintain rural atmosphere
- Provide for open space subdivision.
- Access to freeway 45 and 41
- Improve or enhance industrial/ commercial land
- Land use for recreation – e.g. camping, snowmobile
- Right to continue farming
- Green space
- Establish healthy tax base, keep taxes low
- Accessible government – open communications
- Zoning and land use decisions at a local level
- Transportation to health care services
- Hwy 45 – new businesses to support tax base

Threats: Anything that could jeopardize the future success of a community; Factors or situations that can affect a community in a negative way.

- *Urban sprawl, city encroaching
- *Loss of rural atmosphere/character
- *Loss of productive farmland
- *Overdevelopment of land – subdivisions
- *Imposing “city” mentality in rural atmosphere – i.e. manure spread – smell, deer in garden, etc.
- *Diminishing property owner’s rights
- *Encroachment by city
- *Increased population and traffic
- *Water table contamination from mound, septic
- *Contamination from runoff – streams, wetlands
- *Encroachment of West Bend
- *High land values/price
- *High taxes
- *Affect on environment (new roads)
- *City shores boundaries – city of WB keeps growing
- *Loss of farmland – control more laws
- *Nosey neighbors – difficult farming
- *Town roads – poor
- *Housing development – waste of land/large lots, not enough smaller lots
- *C/WB and Wash. Co. encroachment
- *Uncontrolled development
- *Maintain preservation of natural environment
- *Maintain wetland preservation – stronger laws
- *Quarry control?
- Elderly housing not enough
- Chemical pollution - spraying
- Rezoning
- Cost for town? (Smart Growth)
- Lose our self-determination
- Crime rate
- Fire protection/Law enforcement
- Land use lack of control
- Access to utilities – e.g. cable
- Increased taxation