

Does it Benefit Me to Stay?



My name is Cameron Dunbar. After growing up in town and moving away for college I returned, took a leap of faith, and bought a house in New Salem. On a lone income I handle every cost and have many concerns about any increase in expenses.

I would now like the Town of New Salem to take a leap of faith and support what is worth investing in. We have the unique opportunity to bring world-class technology to our homes while the Quabbin Reservation will ensure we remain a rural place with strategic geographical location.

The home I purchased is historic: A Swift River Valley transplant, former railroad station in North Dana (1873-1935), with unique period features from that era and its 1938 move off the valley floor. I have spent thousands of dollars so far to ensure it remains viable for decades to come and upholds its value. I am holding off on non-critical improvement of the property pending the decision to build out WiredWest; if not, I need to take a serious look at moving away if my house will even sell. The towns around us are certain to get connected and New Salem home values will drop precipitously.



I want kids who are growing up in town to return and buy their own homes as I did. I do not expect them to stay if we aren't going to give the opportunity to compete against every other young adult economically, educationally and in a web-based workforce. Currently, in New Salem, they do not stand a chance.