

LWV Question: In order to be an effective RTM member, what steps would you take prior to voting on an issue

DON BERGMAN

For the hard issues: do the homework, read the materials, study the law and regulations, attend the relevant meetings, engage with all sides, especially those with whom I disagree, listen, try to get a sense of the views of District One and other Westporters through reading, speaking and e-mails, meet with relevant Town employees and elected and appointed officials, ponder the long and short term consequences, consider financial implications, but most of all think about what is best for Westport. For the easy issues: the same, but alot more quickly.

Biographical Information: Westporter since 1979. Wife, Sheila, kids, Marshall and Joanna, Colgate, Harvard Law, former General Counsel, NYSE Corp., love Westport, active in numerous local issues.



MARTY BELL

“What works is cooperation, not conflict.” ergo,

- Be aware of multiple opinions, seeking input from involved community members.
- Elicit input from Town employees, officials and fellow RTM members.
- Stay abreast of Westport sentiment/issues thru local newspapers, web based publications and blogs.
- Explore the social and financial consequences of issues,
- Engage community residents to explore common grounds for compromise
- Bring opposing views to a consensus
- Identify citizens with subject matter expertise to interface with officials and employees

Westporter since 1983. Married with 4 Sons, Wharton School of Business, Annenberg Scholar, M.A. UPenn, decorated war veteran, past CEO public company, Entrepreneur, active in Connecticut jobs creation, non-politician. E mail: martyb@prescients.com

