

PLANNING AND ZONING

(Adopted 1969, Revised 1970, 1983, 2001)

The League of Women Voters of Westport supports municipal planning and adoption and implementation of zoning regulations based on the current Westport Plan of Conservation & Development (the Town Plan). The Town's planning and zoning regulation and enforcement should preserve the residential character of Westport, regulate commercial development, minimize traffic congestion, and protect the open space essential to Westport's quality of life.

Explanation:

The Westport League of Women Voters advocates the following:

Planning should:

1. Anticipate future needs of the Town;
2. Take into consideration the input of the citizens of Westport;
3. Take into account recommendations of the Historic District Commission and the Architectural Review Board;
4. Utilize objective data (e.g. traffic, population and environmental studies);
5. Provide for an appropriate mix of commercial and retail property, multi-family and single-family housing, and open space;
6. Include proposals for implementation;
7. Be reviewed regularly and updated as necessary.

Zoning regulations should:

1. Protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community at large;
2. Be based on defined objectives;
3. Preserve the integrity of residential neighborhoods;
4. Be clear, precise, and written positively rather than negatively;
5. Minimize changes to natural topography;
6. Protect and preserve ground water, including aquifers and wetlands;
7. Prevent excessive or polluted run-off;
8. Prevent-over intensive use of land with regard to coverage, traffic and sewage;
9. Preserve the community character of Westport, both in residential and commercial areas, with attention to coverage, setbacks, streetscape, landscaping and historic preservation;
10. Be reviewed and updated to respond to changing needs and conditions