



To Our Members and Supporters,

In the wake of the long-awaited decision of the Planning and Zoning Commission to approve the Family Y at Mahackeno – and on behalf of the Board of Directors, the Board of Trustees and the management of the Westport Weston Family Y – we would like to thank all who have given so generously of their time, their talents and their hearts during the Commission hearings.

Whether you wrote a letter or sent an e-mail, put a sign on your lawn or a magnet on your car, spoke at the hearings, donned a yellow t-shirt or simply continued your Family Y membership, we are most grateful for your ongoing encouragement and support and we are proud to be able to serve such a generous and forward-looking community.



for their thoughtful and diligent stewardship of and contributions to the review process – not to mention the very long work days – during the ten months since the Family Y application was filed in December 2007.

And finally, we would like to acknowledge those who opposed plans for a new Family Y at Mahackeno.

We also appreciate the work of the Planning and Zoning Commissioners who tackled this hearing with such dedication and integrity. At close to 70 hours of hearings over 15 nights, this was the longest public hearing in the history of Westport; and with over 1,000 documents in the record, it is probably the largest application file as well. More importantly, with the Commission devoting part or all of 10 work sessions to this application, this is also unquestionably the most meticulously considered decision in the history of our Town. There can be no doubt that the Commissioners thoroughly reviewed the Family Y application, carefully weighed all sides in the debate and reached a well-reasoned decision based on their understanding of the evidence in the record. We are truly fortunate to have such conscientious men and women serving our community in this volunteer capacity.

Despite the differences of opinion, they played an important role in this process. The decisions of the Flood and Erosion Control Board, the Conservation Commission, the RTM and the Planning and Zoning Commission are better decisions and better for our community because the arguments presented by the opposition were weighed as carefully as those presented by the Family Y. In fact, a number of suggestions made by the opposition have benefited the project – such as revisions to the lighting plans for Mahackeno – and we appreciate those suggestions.

We would be remiss if we did not express our gratitude and respect for the staff of the Planning and Zoning Department. Larry Bradley, Mary Young, Susan Voris and the rest of the P&Z staff deserve the applause and praise of the entire Town

The Westport Weston Family Y has been looking for a new home since 1995 and the first public hearing in Town was held before the Flood and Erosion Control Board in September 2006.

After 13 years of planning and a two-year permitting process, all of us associated with the Family Y look forward to moving ahead as a united community ... to realize the vision of our new facility at Mahackeno and to continue to deliver on the promise of our mission – building strong kids, strong families and strong communities – for the next 85 years and beyond.

Thank you for your continued encouragement and support.

Together we will *Make Mahackeno Happen.*

Iain H. Bruce
President
Board of Directors

Pete Wolgast
Chairman
Board of Trustees

Helene Weir
Former
Chief Executive Officer

David Cohen
Vice President
Operations