

Y meets standards

My name is Bill Sorenson and I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the Westport Weston Family Y.

When my neighbor and I went to the second public hearing of the Westport Planning and Zoning Commission concerning the Family Y's application for a special permit to build and operate a proposed new facility at Mahackeno, I expected to spend an evening listening yet again to the small group of vocal "againers" who have been trying to sidetrack this worthwhile project for years. Instead, during the first half of the meeting we received a refreshing procedural education from Larry Bradley, the very professional Director of the Westport Planning & Zoning Department. During Mr. Bradley's staff report, he stated that the Commission had a legal responsibility to consider the Family Y's special permit application within the laws and statutes that guide such applications. He went on to state that there are ten special permit standards in the regulations that must be met by the Family Y's site plan application. He also stated that its application can only be denied if it does not conform to the regulations. Mr. Bradley further stated that he believes the Commission would be out of order to consider alternate sites for the Family Y.

The Family Y is a good citizen. Its management and board have hired highly respected professionals who have been charged with making certain this project is done correctly and conforms to all rules and regulations that a good citizen should conform to on such a project.

After hearings and deliberations, other governmental agencies and commissions have voted favorably on the Family Y's site plan. I believe it meets 10 special standards in the regulations that are currently before the Westport Planning & Zoning Commission.

*Bill Sorenson
Westport*