

**Westport News 03.28.08**  
**Letter to the Editor**

**Fairness and Objectivity on Town Boards**

Having served on two town boards for close to 20 years, I have watched the approval process for the new Family Y at Mahackeno with both interest and some concern.

The proposal to leave the old downtown facility and build a new one near the Merritt Parkway is certainly a big change for the town. However, let's remember that there have been major changes in the past – a number of them while I served as chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals for two years, and then while I was chairman of the Conservation Commission for close to eight years. I recall how hard we all worked on these boards and commissions, as do their members today.

During those years, there were a number of times that I, and other commissioners, voted for projects that I was not personally in favor of, but the facts supported their approval. In these roles, fairness and objectivity is key to the process. As the Family Y application moves through the Westport Planning & Zoning Commission, the decision should be decided fairly and on the merits of the application alone.

***Dr. Stanley Freeman***  
**Westport**