

Vote 'Yes' on the Y

I am writing to show my support for the Mahackeno application that now sits before the Planning and Zoning Commission. My family moved to Westport in 1962, and we have long used and supported the YMCA in town.

As a River Lane resident, I used to bike down the street each summer to participate in the "Y" Mahackeno summer camp programs for several years. And, I also was carpooled to the Main Street building on weekends where I would spend hours involved in all aspects of "Y" related programs.

My father, Robert A. "Red" Graham, who passed away in December at 94, had long supported all programs that benefited the

town of Westport, including the YMCA where he also sat on the Board of Trustees for many years. "Red" believed strongly that the community needs programs like the "Y" because it provides a needed service for family enrichment.

That it why when I was asked to be on the "Y" Board of Trustees several years ago, I agreed to join the cause for the continuation of the Westport Weston Family Y. I cannot envision the town not having such a valuable resource that benefits everyone, and the Mahackeno site is the only natural location for it to be at.

The Graham family has long supported the Y and we would be saddened if the town does not grant approval on the application. Simply put, I want my 10-year-old

son to be able to use and benefit from the Westport Weston Family Y the same way I did growing up as a kid in Westport. Not having a Y at Mahackeno would leave Westport without something quite valuable.

I urge the town's land use agency to think about what the town would be losing if it votes "No" on the application. Westport has everything else ... it should also have a state-of-the-art Y facility on property it owns, at Mahackeno.

MARK S. GRAHAM
FAIRFIELD