

DITOR

To the P&Z

Dear Mr. Bradley:

I am relatively new to the Westport area. Both of my sons reside in Westport, and on occasion, I would come to visit. I have now decided to move here and am presently working for the Westport/Weston Family Y. I'm teaching in the toddler daycare program. My decision to move to Westport was easy ... the amenities that are offered to both children as well as adults make it an ideal place to live.

Throughout the years, literature on the Mahackeno property has been made available. Upon viewing the property and seeing how beautiful this land is, what is the issue? This nature preserve has so much to offer Westport residents. We are a nationally acclaimed non-profit organization, but we are limited at our present location. As far as the childcare program is concerned, come and view the overcrowded conditions that exist at the current location. Time is of the essence when you're a toddler or a pre-k and there are only four stalls available. We are walking these children on narrow sidewalks along Route 1, and on Main Street. We either have them in a buggy or with strap attachments trying to deal with traffic. Now we're given a choice ... Make Mahackeno Happen. The children will have outdoor grounds to play, and the opportunity to enjoy nature. This property belongs to the 'Y' and is available to all Westport residents. Again, what is the issue?

As I understand it, you have been looking at properties for the past 13 years trying to keep the

'Y' local. If you haven't found property by now, what are we waiting for? The present 'Y' location has been sold. There is no Plan B! This means, if Mahackeno doesn't pass Planning and Zoning, the 'Y' program and all it has to offer will be lost. I'm also aware of the opposition, most of them residing near or close to Mahackeno. Need I say more! Make Mahackeno Happen!

CATHERINE (TINA) CARNAHAN
WESTPORT