



## Let's Work Together to Make Mahackeno Happen

As the Westport Weston Family Y's application for a new Y at Mahackeno is in its final stage of review by the P&Z Commission, it seems unbelievable that approvals by the Flood & Erosion Control Board, the DEP and the Conservation Commission, as well as a review by the RTM, are again being discounted by opponents of the new Y. As an owner of property in Westport, I do believe it is important to have to apply to these diverse bodies for approval. How-

ever, I believe all Westport property owners should be very concerned that a precedent is being set for quintuple jeopardy.

After searching for a new site for the past 13 years, it became apparent that Mahackeno was the only site that would work — for reasons that have been documented many times and by many people. If you read the records dating back to Diane Farrell's day this is clearly a fact. The Y board brought together experts to determine the best and safest way to build the new facility, with major considerations to the environment. In addition, the town's reviewing bodies hired their own experts, which the applicant is required to pay for, who have already vetted the proposed systems and suggested ways to improve monitoring.

To individuals who state their support for the Y in general, but claim that the new Y will be harmful to the environment, why don't they look to further problem-solve these concerns rather than working so hard toward the rejection of the application? The Y has already stated that they are open to looking at all ways to protect the environment, including a sewer system. Rather than bringing up old arguments under the disingenuous guise of "new information" and hiring more consultants to review good decisions made by smart people, why not put their effort toward working with the Y to create the best possible facility? That would be the best way for these critics to truly show that they care about and support the work of the Y — and the many benefits it provides to our town.

I have been a resident of West-

port for 22 years. During this time Westport's governing bodies and the Westport Weston Family Y has served four generations of my family; I hope to enjoy, for many more years, both institutions' continued thoughtful custody of our town and our families.

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