

**From:** Matthew Mandell <savewestport@melmar.com>  
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Hi All and more newcomers.

No, I didn't lose your email address, I took the summer off from writing, but now it's fall, it's time to again fill you in on what is going on.

YMCA -

Glad I did take the summer off or I'd have written volumes about how the P&Z is hell bent on approving the new Y even though the record and regulations show differently. I will say little here as not to outline any appeal point the P&Z is missing. It's the job of the Town Attorney to sanitize the decision to have it hold up in court, so pointing out any issues would not be prudent. But believe me Bill Kupinse the Y Downtown attorney has each and every one listed and can point to each and has the record to prove it. He has done a phenomenal job. And YD is ready to appeal once the decision is published.

There have been some recent calls for those looking to protect Mahackeno to call it quits once the P&Z makes its decision. What a hollow request. This is nothing but pro new facility people fearing a reversal by appeal. One that Mr. Kupinse says has a better than normal chance of occurring. This Rodney King type, "can't we all get along" rhetoric should have been the case before proposing a 102,000 sqf facility in a residential neighborhood outside of Westport's center. We could have all worked together for a downtown solution, the funny thing is, we still can.

But, I'm in the more "no justice, no peace" vein. By having an impartial third party, a judge, review the P&Z decision, just as is being done in Conservation we might see a just outcome. This overly political situation must to be looked at fairly and based on the law and the record. This can only be accomplished by an appeal.

If interested in the appeal contact [info@Ydowntown.com](mailto:info@Ydowntown.com) or send them a check c/o Indy Goldberg 12 Rices Lane.

So what else is going on. The Y ain't everything.

Earthplace-

They are celebrating their 50th year and on Friday November 14th they will be holding their gala at the Inn at Longshore. Every Partrick member should have received their invitation by now. Let's show our support for Earthplace and have a giant turnout to say thank you for all they do for our community. There will be food, music, dancing, silent auction, live auction and more. Please come on out. If you didn't get an invitation contact me.

Oh yeah, I am donating for the silent auction a super bowl plaque, 2 tickets and parking pass for the Giants v Ravens game on the Sunday Nov 16. So come prepared to bid on this and other great items. If you have something to donate for the auction or know someone who would, please also contact me I have forms.

On October 28, 7:30pm, Earthplace will host "A Candidate Forum on the Environment." I will be moderator as both State Senate Candidates Toni Boucher and John Hartwell have a lively discussion about the environment and how they believe if elected they will help. Come on out and hear what they have to say.

Others issues.

Saugatuck Shores Sewer -

As you might have heard, the sewer extension to Saugatuck Shores got hung up again. Norwalk neighbors objected to the pump house being close to them and put some pressure on our First Selectman. He pulled that location. Now scrambling to find a new location. Note: it was Norwalk who pulled the plug on the city sewerage the area in the first place. What a mess. SS has been slated to be sewerage since the 1987 Town Plan and again reiterated in the 1997 version. Our Dept of Public works has been diligently working on this and will continue to.

The RTM Environment and Public Works committees will be meeting to discuss this issue on October 6th, 7:45. Come and hear what's up, learn and maybe help us find a suitable location for the pump house, a building about 20 x 20. Anyone want to see what a pump house looks like can come to the Partrick Wetlands.

Affordable Housing -  
We have a host of stuff happening.

GBD/s - Remember that one. The duel project near the train station put together by Sam Gault. No, it is not progressing. Sam and the same old team of Weisman & Redniss are seeking changes to the deal that was first approved in concept November 2005 and again in full a few times more in 2006 and 2007. Seems the project to build the two condo developments, one rental and other sales with 20% affordable can't get total funding. Like that's the Town's problem. But because we all want this "smart growth" project to move forward changes are being looked at.

They want to move some of the affordable units around from one side to the other, or a few off site, but also buried in this proposed change is not building any affordable units and instead buying their way out of it. This is called "fee in lieu." This concept, not supported in the Town Plan is an insult to all the residents and neighbors who in the end supported the idea of affordable inclusionary zoning near the train station. Note: I have spoken with Sam and his intention is to build or create the affordable, not use the "fee." But the "fee" stuff is still in the amendment and must be dealt with. The subtext is the idea of creating a fund (with unknown or even legal oversight) to overdevelop this town in the name of affordable housing, but in the end will accomplish nothing more than stressing our infrastructure and raising out taxes.

The P&Z will be hearing this text change on Oct 2, 7pm. The new site plan is slated for later in the month.

Hales Court -

Funding has been found and this affordable / senior project will move forward. This will add 30+ units to the area for a total of 78. Congrats to those involved. This project has been slated to occur for years and finally is moving forward. But with it, do we need the new Baron's South initiative?

Baron's South - The administration is peddle to the mettle to build what has been slated to be over 100 units of affordable, workforce and senior housing. The actual number is now unknown, but plans to bring some kind of project to P&Z this fall are well in the works.

The problem with all of this is, why aren't the residents being asked what they think? Do we want to build this project? (This project is why the administration would not consider the Y on Barons and aided the Y heading toward Mahackeno) Who will benefit, whose infrastructure will be stressed and whose taxes will go up? The way the financing is possibly being set up, the Board of Finance and the RTM will be bypassed. So other than P&Z, the residents won't have a chance to weigh in or have their representatives review it. Maybe Baron's should be left as open space. We might be losing Mahackeno, should be now lose both? Will more housing here and throughout town create a need for a school on Winslow? These are all questions that need to be asked and answered before we move forward on anything.

Tasers -

RTM will review allowing our police officers to carry Tasers. This should be quite a debate. Tues Oct 7 8pm.

Well I guess that's enough for now. There is more of course. It will come. Send in your Earthplace invites!!!!

To those who observe, have a happy and healthy New Year.

Matthew  
POSA