

From: [don bergmann](#)
To: [Planning and Zoning](#)
Cc: [Perillie, Michelle](#)
Subject: Affordable Housing Subcommittee
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To: Westport Planning & Zoning Commission Affordable Housing Subcommittee
From: Don Bergmann 32 Sherwood Dr. Westport 203 226 8712
Re: March 16th Meeting

Two points for your forthcoming meeting.

1. Significance of Affordable Housing Plan

I of course know that this plan is required under 8-30j, but it is not clear to me the burden, if any, posed by the preparation of the Plan. I have heard Chair Dobin make many references to this Plan, including in the context of citing the status of the West Parish Street affordable housing effort as very important to and as part of what the Plan sets forth as to Westport's efforts to increase affordable housing. In hearing Danielle's words on that effort and others, it sounded to me as if it was extremely important to show accomplishments. I strongly support the West Parish St. project and most of the efforts of the Commission and the Town to develop additional affordable housing. However, I do not follow why any otherwise excellent action by the Town and the Commission should become a pressure point relevant to the 8-30j Plan. In essence, I am unaware of any sanction that could be imposed or adverse finding that could be determined if the Westport 8-30 j Plan did not appear to those not knowledgeable as reflective of the hard work of the Commission on this topic. In other words, if the West Parish St. project was incurring unexpected delays, for example because the CT DOT was slow to address the land donation, that reality, while unfortunate, would have no impact upon Westport because it had to be omitted or less forcefully referenced in our 8-30 j Plan.

Kindly address the above in your forthcoming meeting so I and possibly others can better understand the significance of the 8-30 j Plan.

2. Town Land

Recently, I e mailed the Commission urging the pursuit of developing affordable housing using Town owned land and in using funds in the land acquisition fund to acquire non now Town owned land to be dedicated to affordable housing. I know the Commission supports the concept, particularly since it would allow most of the units built to be affordable, just as is the case with the West Parish St. project. The use of the town land purchase monies, now well over \$2 million, makes sense since the location of the land could be selected as being good for affordable housing, the money now in the fund cannot find a use and the price for such land could well be fairly low since the land most likely would be in a residential area where land values are not overly high.

I bring this up hoping that the Subcommittee has discussed and possibly will again discuss this at its next or a future meeting. I did not expect a response to my prior e mail and one is not expected now.

Thank you all,

Don Bergmann