

February 25, 2021

6 Shepherds Run  
Westerly, RI 02891

Mr. Kevin Nelson  
Supervising Planner  
Division of Statewide Planning  
235 Promenade Street, Suite 230  
Providence, RI 02908

Subject: Westerly Comprehensive Community Plan, ID # WES-CP-21

Dear Mr. Nelson,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Westerly, Rhode Island regarding the Westerly Town Council submission to the State of Rhode Island for approval of their Westerly 2020 - 2040 Comprehensive Strategic Plan ID# WES-CP-21.

I have read the 350+ page document and admit I did not understand the consequences or changes that are outlined. The language used is unclear and up for interpretation. The document is very dense and difficult to understand as a normal citizen with no background in town planning or zoning.

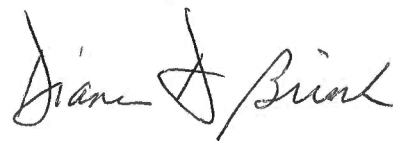
The Town failed to proactively educate the community on the content contained in this 2020-2040 plan. The Town failed to proactively engage the community for input and feedback. The Town completely disregarded the 2018 comprehensive plan drafts that had active input by members of the community. The Town Council's lack of transparency and lack of regard to educate and engage the town is wrong.

The fact that such a strategic document was pushed through the Town Council without visible and proactive communications and education is appalling and wrong. This is especially alarming when this process was conducted under the radar during the pandemic. Clearly, residents of the town and neighboring areas were and are focused on their health and safety. The lack of care and consideration during such an extraordinary time is disappointing and frustrating. The fact that the Town Council did not take into account these factors and felt compelled to push the plan through for approval is wrong.

While I understand the Town Council has approved the plan and are now seeking State review, I feel obligated to register my opposition and concerns on how the process was executed and its contents.

Thank you for taking this input into consideration as you review the subject plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diane D. Brink".

Diane D. Brink