

Walter E. Reynolds  
48 Harbor Drive  
Westerly, RI 02891

February 22, 2021

Kevin Nelson, Supervising Planner  
Division of Statewide Planning  
Providence, RI 02908

Re: Town of Westerly Comprehensive Community Plan, ID#: WES-CP-21

Dear Mr. Nelson:

I would like to bring to your attention the manner in which changes were made to the “Commercial/Recreational Zone “ in the newly proposed plan. All of the changes regarding golf courses were made by the owner of the development company that owns one of the golf courses, and his attorney at meetings that were not all made public. This owner publicly stated that he had been working for multiple years with town officials to come up with the content of the CR zone. To me, this appears to be a blatant conflict of interest. The golf course has been a designated “open space” for many years, was purchased in 2015 by this group and since their purchase has been poorly run, creating a false sense of a business climate that can no longer survive. By doing so, they “tricked” the town into working with them for all kinds of potential development, specifically, “a hotel”.

RIGL §45-22.2 requires all cities and towns to “ preserve and protect our open space, recreational, historic and cultural resources”. This new Comprehensive Plan opens the door to the ultimate destruction of this large tract of open space. It is my hope that your input at the State level can help us keep Westerly’s only public golf course intact as the language in the expired 2010 Comprehensive Plan had accomplished.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Walter E. Reynolds