

I would like this commission and the public to know that I completely support the construction of the Senior/Community center. I believe that this has been a long time in coming. In and of itself, the Community center taken in isolation is compliant with Andover's Plan of Conservation and Development. However, in planning for the construction of such a building, we can't ignore the intended location of the center and the subsequent change in our zoning regulations.

As a resident and member of this commission, I believe that we have the responsibility to be sure that this project is completed in such a way as to protect the school's interests and responsibilities while also allowing the construction of a Senior/Community center.

I have concerns about changing the zoning regulations to delete "Schools" from the list of special permit uses in the ARRD zone and substitute "municipal land uses". I would much prefer to keep the listing for "schools" and add the "municipal land uses" to the special permit list.

My beliefs for this come from the following:

1. The Connecticut General Statute § 10-220 requires that the Board of Education "shall have charge of the schools of its respective school district; shall make a continuing study of the need for school facilities and of a long-term school building program; ...[and] shall have the care and maintenance and operation of buildings, lands, apparatus and other property used for school purposes...". This requires that school property is kept separate from other town owned property. Hence the need for a separate zoning use.
2. Another concern with the removal of the "school" identifier and lumping it in with municipal is that, while the school is a municipal building, that does not mean public access as would be expected in other municipal buildings as is included in the proposed definition. Today there is a great need for safety and security of the school buildings and property. As we have seen in the past few years during the conversations about a senior center using some school classrooms, the parents of Andover are very concerned about keeping their children safe in the school.

3. The proposed additions to Sections 24 lists “Municipal Land Uses: buildings, structures, and uses of the Town of Andover or any regional public agency of which it is a member, but not including public uses by other agencies or entities. Compare to “Public”.”

As the Connecticut General Statute requires the Board of Ed. to have charge of the buildings and lands, there is a definite requirement for a separate identifier to be in the Special Permit uses.