

April 20, 2015

Members of the RTM Planning and Zoning Committee:

As a follow-up to the RTM's Planning and Zoning Committee discussion with me at the April 6, 2015 meeting, I would like to document my response regarding possible initiatives related to the Baron's South property. During that discussion, it was suggested that I not pursue any new or alternative development initiatives on Baron's South while the review of the recent zoning decision is under consideration and, if such decision is overturned, until the review of the proposed senior housing development is concluded.

Other uses for the property have been suggested and, to some degree, explored. For some time now, I have recognized the need to pause any further consideration of those uses given the current status of the property. As you are aware, any new initiative to sell, lease or develop a part of the Baron's South property would need to start with a formal request from the First Selectman's office. I can assure the RTM and other Town commissions that I will not be submitting requests which would change the current status or usage of the property until there is a resolution of the appeal of the zoning decision and the final disposition of the senior housing proposal.

That said, I must add the caveat that I reserve the right to initiate necessary improvements to maintain the property and existing structures and the overall safety of the buildings and property, to conduct the historic designation study of Golden Shadows, to allow for the rental and lease requirements of all or some of the existing Town-owned buildings / residences at 52, 52A, 68, 70 and 72 South Compo Road and to explore potential uses of those structures, and to examine the future space and programmatic needs of the Center for Senior Activities. Otherwise, I do not intend to initiate any significant projects on the property while the zoning change and the potential for senior housing are being considered.

Sincerely,

Jim Marpe

First Selectman  
**Town of Westport**

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