

# PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION



## Harry Falber

Petitioning Candidate

### Biographical Statement

- Current: Weston Planning & Zoning Commissioner, Lachat Volunteer, LWV Steering Committee, Advisor: startups/turnarounds.
- Corporate: Hallmark Cards (President, Flowers), Nabisco (Marketing), Polaroid (Advertising), 1-800-Flowers (Director, Bloomnet), Volvo (Advertising), others
- Advertising Agencies
- Consultant: Gerber-Novartis, Smith & Wesson, Alcoa, Nat Sherman, Reynolds Products, US Green Building Council, others.
- Owner: Restaurants in Stamford & Hoboken.
- Teacher & Board Member: Temple Israel.
- Board Member: Stamford Chamber of Commerce.
- 25-year Weston resident
- Married to Pattie Falber

### In your opinion, what is the most significant issue facing Weston today?

There's no "most significant" issue. We've numerous issues, needing prioritizing with strategies, target dates, and shared values over commissions, committees, and residents. An "information highway" to each household is imperative. We need documentation of commission/committee meetings using "artificial intelligence conversion of voice to text" in a central, indexed location. Use "e-discovery software" to guarantee quick response to FOIA requests.

Halt stifling of ideas, dismissing innovation. Mindsets need changing. Make greater use of our research committee, polling residents & incorporating their thoughts into actions leading to timely outcomes.

"Silos" are our enemy, contributing to apathy. Cross-pollination discussions among commissions are vital.

### Why are you running for this specific office and what do you bring to it?

P&Z should help residents in compassionate, timely fashion making improvements to their property, improving quality of life, modifying regulations where needed.

P&Z needs laypeople, not attorneys who feel compelled to be adversarial enforcers of sometimes arcane zoning regulations.

P&Z should be examining economic and environmental impact before implementing an unrealistic POCD.

P&Z should be both supportive and reasonable, not ignoring ideas.

P&Z shouldn't need 6-figure consultant fees to figure out Weston.

I bring care for the homeowners, creativity to expansion, adherence to important regulations while championing and working for residents. Most important, I listen and am not tone deaf.

**What is the most important issue this board/commission faces and how would you potentially address it?**

Promote real creativity and innovation on what is built or allowed improving Weston's quality of life and desirability. For examples: Repave and widen Valley Forge to include bike lanes; Create mountain-biking and hiking trails on town and Aspetuck Land Trust properties; Broaden the Onion Barn Park with an expanded town green for more events, adding small, retail "period" sheds for small-businesses run as concessions garnering rent/royalty for upkeep (i.e., NYC Bryant Park Shopping Village). Repurpose Bisceglie Pond in winter to an ice rink –generating revenue. Explore Jarvis Military School property recreating dormitories as 1& 2 bedroom affordable and senior apartments.