

PLANNING AND ZONING



Gus Christensen

Democratic Party

Biographical Statement

Gus Christensen is a Director of Woodlawn Cemetery and has served as a member of the Board and Executive Committee of the NY Landmarks Conservancy. He founded Ænor Capital and was formerly a Managing Director at Evercore Partners. Gus received his BA from Yale University and his MBA from Wharton. He and his wife Courtney renovated the historic Rowland House on Norfield Road. They have one daughter at WIS and another at Hurlbutt.

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

The biggest change happening in Weston right now is the rapid turnover of homes and residents. We are an old town with a lot of new faces, myself included. There is loss in this process, of old friends and neighbors, especially for longer tenured residents. But there is also gain, of new families and new energy. If we can keep building on our institutions, from churches and synagogues to schools and clubs, from sports leagues to scouting troops, I think we can keep building those friendships, and neighborly ties, for generations to come.

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

I am running to serve on Planning & Zoning because I really love land use policy and our built environment. I have a great deal of experience with historic preservation, as well as significant recent experience with major home renovations and construction projects. I believe that I can bring those experiences to bear while seeking at all times to apply the relevant laws and regulations in an even-handed manner to all applicants before the commission. And I think both my background and passions make me well suited for the bigger picture aspects of the role, ie land use planning.

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

The most important P&Z issue is the need to balance our community's character with its lack of diversity of housing options. Many empty nesters say they would prefer to stay in Weston when they downsize, but that there are no options. Over a third of Weston homes have changed hands since 2020. The vast majority of the sellers have left town. Many may have chosen to move away, but how many would have remained in Weston if they had options? I want to keep listening to our community on this, and then see what can be done to help.