

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS



Daniel Gilbert

Republican Party

Biographical Statement

Dr. Dan Gilbert is an organizational psychologist. He retired from General Electric's Corporate Staff. He holds B.S., M.B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees. Dan was a 1st Lieutenant Artillery Firing Battery Commander. He and his family moved to Weston in 1986. He has served on P&Z, the Board of Selectmen, and currently on ZBA. Dan does volunteer work as a member of Kiwanis, Aspetuck Health District, and Americares. He is a Eucharistic Minister at Saint Francis.

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

The most significant issue facing Weston today is a decrease in civility. The sense that I'm right and you're wrong, more often than not, drives conversation in the public space. Winning means defeating the enemy. However, in most cases moving the ball forward requires finding common ground. "We the people" means all of us. For over 200 years America has been engaged in an extraordinary democratic experiment. The League of Women Voters tells us, "Together we can protect and defend our democracy." The key word in the League's guidance is "together."

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

I'm running for a position on the Zoning Board of Appeals for the same reasons I served on the Board of Selectmen, Planning and Zoning Commission, and currently on the Zoning Board of Appeals. I want to assure that everyone coming before the Board is treated with respect and that the Board's decisions are made with a high degree of fairness and objectivity. I attempt to bring a sense of integrity to every meeting. I do my best to come to the Board's meetings with an understanding of the applicant's appeal, Weston's Zoning Regulations, and the law.

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

The most important issue facing the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) is finding the right balance between fairness and the law. ZBA sits between the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) and the public to assure that P&Z decisions are objective and fair. ZBA hears requests for relief from decisions made by P&Z and by the Code Enforcement Officer where property owners feel P&Z or the Officer have erred in judgement. Consideration must be given to each applicant's unique circumstance. The issue is addressed by Board members being good listeners and having a comprehensive understanding of zoning regulations and the law.