



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning and Zoning Commission
FROM: Mark Wujtewicz, Planner
DATE: June 25, 2024
TITLE: Staff Report: CGS 8-24
Application PL-24-10
School Safety Improvements
Great Neck, Oswegatchie, Quaker Hill, Clark Lane Middle and Waterford High
Schools

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §8-24, the above application is forwarded to the Planning and Zoning Commission for municipal improvements to each of Waterford's Public Schools in order to enhance and implement physical safety measures. In accordance with CGS §8-24, prior to any agency of the Town taking action on implementing these improvements, an action by the Planning and Zoning Commission is required in order to determine whether the improvements to the school properties as identified in this application are consistent with the stated goals and policies of the 2012 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

BACKGROUND

Pertinent Regulations

CGS §8-24

Town of Waterford 2012 Plan of Preservation Conservation and Development

DISCUSSION

The Town of Waterford Board of Education has identified specific physical improvements to be implemented in order to enhance the safety of the students and staff at each of the public schools. These measures include the installation of bollards and/or heavy planters near the entrances of all the schools where students and staff tend to congregate. Additional fencing is proposed along the

playgrounds at the three elementary schools in order to limit egress to driveway and parking areas and to eliminate the potential for snatch and grab scenarios.

A stated goal of the Community Facilities Section of the 2012 POCD is to “*Provide adequate services and facilities to meet community needs*” and to *Monitor and Adapt to Changing Community Facility Needs*. The improvements to the Waterford Public School properties presented in this application are consistent with the stated goal and policies of the Community Facilities Section. The safety enhancements proposed to be implemented will provide for the safety of the students and staff in support of school security plans.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Based on the information provided in the record, staff recommends the Planning and Zoning Commission find that:

Findings:

1. That the proposed improvements to the Town of Waterford school properties qualify for a CGS §8-24 review by the Planning and Zoning Commission.
2. The five schools listed in the application are Community Facilities as identified on the Community Facilities Map contained in the 2012 Plan of Conservation and Development (pg. 67)
3. The improvements proposed are consistent with the stated goal in the 2012 Plan of Conservation and Development, Community Facilities chapter to “*Provide adequate services and facilities to meet community needs.*” (pg. 66)
4. The improvements proposed are consistent with the 2012 Plan of Conservation and Development, Community Facilities chapter Section A. Monitor and Adapt to Changing Community Facility Needs. (pg. 67)

Proposed Motion:

To approve Planning and Zoning CGS §8-24 Application #PL-24-10 for improvements to each of the Town of Waterford School Properties as presented in the application by adopting the findings 1 thru 4 of the staff report and to find that the proposal is consistent with the Town of Waterford 2012 Plan of Preservation Conservation and Development.

SUPPORT

Community Facilities

GOAL

Provide adequate services and facilities to meet community needs.

A Plan of Preservation, Conservation and Development reviews the physical aspects of community services (such as education, public works, public safety, social, and recreation) to ensure that they are appropriately located and sized to meet community needs. These services and facilities contribute to Waterford's character and quality of life.

Since the 1998 Plan, Waterford has undertaken a school consolidation and modernization program, built a community center, and upgraded some buildings and systems to meet community needs.

In the survey, residents indicated that they were very satisfied with quality and quantity of the following Town services:

<i>Service</i>	<i>Good And Very Good</i>	<i>Not Sure / Don't Know</i>	<i>Poor And Very Poor</i>
Fire services	93%	5%	2%
Schools	82%	12%	6%
Park/recreation facilities such as fields	80%	8%	12%
Park/recreation activities such as classes or programs	78%	11%	11%

Town Hall



Community Center



A. Monitor And Adapt To Changing Community Facility Needs

Overall, people are living longer and healthier lives and the increasing portion of the population in older age groups will affect the services communities provide. Waterford actually preceded this broader trend (perhaps due to the fiscal benefits of Millstone) and is in the process of adapting to this new reality.

Waterford will continue to configure its community services and facilities to meet the needs of the community of the future rather than for what has been done in the past. This may include more senior housing, more social services, different types of transportation, and program activities for older residents.

See the "Implementation Element" of the Waterford Plan of Preservation, Conservation and Development for information on tasks and actions currently programmed for implementation of these Community Facility strategies.

