



**TOWN OF WESTPORT
CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**

TOWN HALL – 110 MYRTLE AVENUE
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PLANNING & ZONING TRANSMITTAL
MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 5, 2026
TO: Michelle Perillie, Director, Planning and Zoning Department
FROM: Colin Kelly, Conservation Director
RE: Text Amendment #866 to modify Zoning Regulations relating to Building Height to Remove Number of Stories in Residential and Multifamily Development



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- Explanatory Statement, dated 3/4/26
 - Proposed Text Amend #866, dated 3/4/26

Comments: In general, the Conservation Department supports the efforts to strengthen the Zoning Regulations by eliminating areas of confusion within the language of the document. Our Department does not generally concern ourselves with issues of height when commenting to the Zoning Commission, however, we do hear discussion of this issue when we meet with developers/owners as they plan for residential lifts to meet FEMA compliance. We feel this text change would reduce overall confusion and ultimately free up time and resources to concentrate on getting existing structures compliant, and therefore, getting living space out of the flood areas.

Our office recently partnered with The Westport Library and Sustainable Westport to bring Dr. James O'Donnell to town on February 12, 2026. As a professor of marine sciences at the UCONN and executive director of the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation, he laid out the case for projected sea level rise and the necessity for town bodies to discuss adapting our regulations to contend with the effects of water height. Where this amendment touches lightly on addressing overall height, and the reduction of the complicated interpretations, we feel it is part of a larger discussion that should be addressed at a future review for properties located within Special Flood Hazards Areas in town.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.