

Catherine Pratt
75 Front Street
Noank, CT 06340

December 3, 2024

Groton Town Council
45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340

Subject: Reappointment of Jeffrey Pritchard to the Planning & Zoning Commission

Mayor Franco, Members of the Town Council:

I appreciate this opportunity to express my concerns over the failure of the Personnel & Appointments Committee on November 19 to recommend Jeffrey Pritchard for reappointment to the Town of Groton Planning & Zoning Commission, or to take any action at all on the motion on the floor to do so. On the merits, Mr. Pritchard has made positive contributions to the well-being of our community for decades, as RTM member, chair of the Planning Commission, and chair of the current joint Planning & Zoning Commission, and is indisputably qualified.

When considering the primary objective of land-use regulation to preserve the integrity and stability of a well-balanced community plan, we are fortunate to have the benefit of Mr. Pritchard's accumulated knowledge and expertise in the complex rules and regulations of both planning and zoning, and his commitment to ensuring that the underlying principles are implemented uniformly and consistently in an objective and neutral manner.

I look forward to the content of the full committee report of Chair Bruce Jones at tonight's meeting and a full explanation of the committee's reasoning, including any grounds for its inaction on the pending motion to recommend Mr. Pritchard's reappointment to the full council.

Incidentally, under *Robert's Rules of Order*, 12th Edition, motions made in a committee need not be seconded. See Section 49:21 (Procedure in Small Boards), which is incorporated by reference in Section 50:25, a subsection of Section 50 (Committees).

It has come to the attention of the public that the town clerk, presumably on the basis of the committee's inaction, undertook apparently on her own initiative to send a letter dated November 25 to Mr. Pritchard notifying him that he had not been reappointed. Even if the committee had acted on the motion before it and put it to a vote, which it did not do, that action would have been only advisory to the full body, in other words to the town council sitting as such in regular session. I fail to discern any legal basis for the town clerk's letter.

Through the many years of the exercise of the planning and zoning functions in Groton, the community has benefited greatly from the care, concern, and common sense of volunteers like Mr. Pritchard. He is deserving of your full support.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Catherine Pratt