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Westport Weston Family Y to Meet with Neighbors Regarding Application to Connect to Municipal Sewer System

Westport, CT, February 20, 2012 – The Westport Weston Family Y will host a meeting on Wednesday, February 22 at 7 pm in the Board Room of the Bedford Building at 59 Post Road East. The purpose of this meeting is to provide additional information regarding the Family Y's recent application to connect its planned new Y facility at Mahackeno Outdoor Center to the Town of Westport's municipal sanitary sewer system. The Family Y will address an audience of homeowners in the neighborhoods adjacent to the Family Y's 32-acre Mahackeno campus.

The Family Y had previously gained local and state approval to install and operate a septic system that would safely treat wastewater from the new Y facility on site. "Although we have complete confidence in the design and function of the approved septic system and will continue to plan for its installment pending this new application, there are good reasons to pursue the regulatory-approval process that would allow us to connect the new Y facility to the Town of Westport's existing sewer lines," says Bonnie Strittmatter, president of the Family Y's volunteer Board of Directors.

Construction of the new Y facility is scheduled to begin in the Fall of 2012 and to be completed by late 2014. The Family Y will hold informational sessions for Y members and the general public regarding its current construction plans at dates to be scheduled in coming weeks. Due to time constraints and the availability of our development partners, the meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 22 will focus on the Family Y's application to connect to the Town sewer system. This application will be reviewed by The Town's Board of Selectmen, acting in its capacity as the Water Pollution Control Authority, at a public hearing to be scheduled by the Town.

Family Y officials and its construction partners, including Land-Tech Consultants, Inc., a local environmental and engineering consulting firm, cite the following benefits of utilizing the Town's municipal sewer system:

- 1) **Preserve 1.5 acres of Mahackeno's woodlands.** Connecting the new Y facility to the Town's municipal sewer system would save more than 100 trees on the camp property from being cut down in order to install the approved in-ground septic system.

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- 2) **Further protect the Saugatuck River.** By connecting the new Y facility to the municipal sewer system, wastewater produced at the Y facility will be processed at the Town of Westport's recently upgraded, state-of-the-art sewage treatment plant, as it is now from the Y's current facility.
- 3) **Support from previous Westport Conservation Commission.** After the Conservation Commission approved the Family Y's plan for a FAST septic system, a member of the commission at the time stated publicly that although the septic system meets all requirements, the entire commission would prefer that the Family Y's proposed facility connect to the Town sewer.
- 4) **Reduced construction and ongoing operational costs.** Installing a sewer line that would access the Town's existing sewer system would result in substantial savings, thereby allowing more resources to be allocated to enhanced Y programs that will benefit local youth, families and the community as a whole. In addition, connecting to the Town's sewer system would relieve the Town of the long-term costs and manpower of monitoring the septic system as required under the current approvals.
- 5) **Addressing public/neighborly concerns.** During the approval process for the septic system, some local residents expressed concerns about the size and location of the septic system. Connecting the new Y facility to the municipal sewer system would dispel these concerns.

"We have a vision for our Family Y's future; in fact a blueprint of it," says Rob Reeves, Family Y CEO. "What we now need is the commitment and the generosity of our community's leaders to help us achieve our shared vision of creating a sustainable new home that will help us continue to make Westport and Weston great places to live." To join the Family Y's "Building What Matters" campaign to fund and construct a sustainable new Y facility, please contact Rob Reeves at 203-226-8981, ext. 131 or rreeves@westportny.org.

About the Westport Weston Family Y

The Westport Weston Family Y is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization that enriches the community by developing and nurturing the potential of every child, promoting healthy living and fostering a sense of social responsibility. The Family Y emphasizes the values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility in its programs and services. An affiliate of the YMCA of the USA, the Westport Weston Family Y is governed by two boards comprised of community volunteers. As a private non-profit serving a public purpose, the Family Y endeavors to provide financial assistance to those who qualify. For more information, visit westportny.org or contact Rob Reeves, CEO, at 203-226-8981, ext. 131 or rreeves@westportny.org.

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