

## Linda Zappala

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**From:** Chester Residents [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 1, 2025 12:00 PM  
**To:** Linda Zappala  
**Cc:** Brandon Holdridge  
**Subject:** Public Comment – AR-3 Zoning & Comprehensive Plan Amendments

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Dear Supervisor Holdridge, Town Clerk Zappala, and Members of the Town Board,

On behalf of the Chester Residents Alliance, I am submitting this public comment regarding the proposed Zoning and Comprehensive Plan Amendments affecting the AR-3 District.

We fully respect and support every individual's right to worship freely. However, we are concerned that the current draft amendments go far beyond what is necessary to comply with federal RLUIPA requirements, and could unintentionally open the door to large, year-round institutional development in rural areas not designed to support it.

The AR-3 district lacks public water, sewer, sidewalks, and major road access, making it unsuitable for high-intensity or permanent institutional use. Allowing such uses would change the character of our town and place long-term burdens on local infrastructure and the environment.

We respectfully urge the Town Board to:

- Limit new "religious institution" uses in AR-3 to seasonal operations only (e.g., summer camps).
- Require site-plan, environmental, and traffic review for all such proposals.
- Maintain equal infrastructure and safety standards for all applicants.
- Preserve the intent of the AR-3 zoning district — protecting Chester's agricultural and rural heritage.

Religious freedom and responsible community planning can and should coexist. We ask that the Board take a careful, balanced approach that upholds both.

Thank you for your time and service to our community.

Sincerely,

Chester Residents Alliance