

## Caryn Case, Wilton's new Land Use Administrator

By Jessie Salisbury

The Land Use Administrator is a resource for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment, assisting residents with their applications, helping them achieve what they want within the town ordinances. She needs to know those ordinances to be sure the boards are acting within them.

Caryn Case took over that position on Sept. 21, replacing Michele DeCoteau who recently resigned. Case has not yet assumed the other job of the position, storm water manager under the state's MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) which DeCoteau managed. She said Town Administrator Nick Germain is overseeing that program until she is more familiar with the town.

Case, who lives in Brookline, is a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a degree in geology and geo physics. She also holds a certificate in nonprofit management from Duke University.

Following graduation she spent a year in Washington, D.C. working for the Department of Defense as a terrain analyst, among other things making maps.

For 30 years she lived in Orleans, Mass., on Cape Cod, where she served on the Planning Board and worked as a land surveyor. She also ran a book store, recycling books, "a green thing to do." "A lot has changed in 30 years," she said. "I'm taking it slowly. I give credit to both boards. They've been very helpful. Some have been members for many years and are helping me with the ordinances. I have a lot to learn. It was harder to learn (back then) because now we have the technology making resources more accessible."

Moving forward, she said, "I want to get as organized as possible. I'd love to have (the office) organized so that anyone coming in could find a case file without my being here. My part has been to help people get organized. I need to get a good grip on the ordinances so I can help people get prepared for going before a board."

It's all part of the learning process, she said. There are several continuing cases before the boards, and she needs to be acquainted with the backgrounds.

She mentioned the repurposing of the former Sacred Heart Church and the "problem of the cyanide" buried at the edge of the Police Station parking lot. She is also working with the Economic Development Committee in furthering their list of projects. "We need to help each other."

“I’m just getting my feet wet,” she said. “I’m refamiliarizing myself with what I learned 30 years ago. I want to get out and tour the town, see where all these places are.

Case has two adult children and is a brand-new grandmother. She can be reached through the town office.