

With Consolidation, Planning Districts Would Not Be About Power Sharing

To the Editor:

A letter in the August 17 issue of Town Topics mentions the possibility of establishing “advisory planning districts” should consolidation occur. In fact, these districts would have no actual power. They would be allowed to offer opinions to the Planning Board, and the Board would have to answer them. Not “agree” or “compromise,” just “answer.” They are an exercise in community relations, not power sharing.

Had the Consolidation Commissioners wanted to empower neighborhoods, they would have established voting districts. Instead, they chose a form of government which will likely result in there being no representatives from Princeton Borough at all, let alone from any of its particular neighborhoods, on the Town Council, Planning Board, School Board, Recreation Board, or on any of the other advisory Boards which currently require representatives from both municipalities.

There are 2000 homes in the Borough, 5000 in the Township. The residents of the Jackson-Witherspoon or Linden Lane or Jefferson-Moore neighborhoods would have far less influence in a consolidated Princeton than they do now in Princeton Borough. Yina Moore’s candidacy surely attests to that, and I’m looking forward to seeing her as Borough mayor for many years, not just for the few months it would be with consolidation.