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Display —A display commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Bill of Rights is displayed in the Macopin School library. Here students Mandy Resitvo and Amy Hopper (foreground) and Jodi Berrian and Ryan Donnelly study the klosks. All are students in Dolores Pollard's social studies class.

— Photo by Ron Nowak

Planning Board discusses V/C zone change request

By KARIN WESTDYK

A zoning ordinance amendment proposed by the township council permitting residences for the developmentally disabled and for homeless and battered women and children in the village/commercial zone was considered by the West Milford Planning Board last Wednesday.

Board member Ernest Fredericks, also a member of the Township Council) said the amendment is "ill conceived." He said, "If you do this, any store in the village/commercial zone could put up curtains and become a home." He added such facilities should not be in the center of town; that the wording in the ordinance should say "battered persons" rather than "battered women" and suggested that those with interests in changing the ordinance should present their case to the Board of Adjustment rather than the Council or Planning Board.

Prior to his remarks, Fredericks asked for clarification from the board attorney

concerning his role since he serves on both the council and planning board. He was told he can contribute because the council is asking for advice and opinion and because there is no particular application before the board.

Board member Glen Wenzel noted a grant is contingent on some type of commitment from the township.

Planning Board attorney Debra Coffin said the issue is really one of a use variance, not a zone change. She suggested the board recommend to the council that the issue be brought before the Board of Adjustment.

Board member Marc Shapiro noted the organizations seeking the change are charitable. He suggested fees could be waived if it is determined the available mechanism for the request is the Board of Adjustment.

Coffin said she would notify the Township Council of the Planning Board's recommendation.

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