



TOWN OF DURHAM
15 NEWMARKET ROAD
DURHAM, NH 03824-2898
Tel: 603/868-5571
Fax: 603/868-5572

July 25, 2011

Douglas C. Bencks, Chair, Board of Trustees
Durham Public Library
7 Mill Road, Unit H
Durham, NH 03824

Dear Chairman Bencks:

The purchase of the property at 49 Madbury Road as the site of the new Durham Public Library has contributed significantly to the realization of many aspects of the Town's vision including its image, identity, and sense of community.

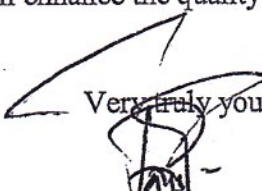
Finalized in September of 2010 with the unanimous approval of the Town Council, and made possible with an exceptionally generous gift from an anonymous private donor, the 2.8 acre property near the downtown poses an unusual opportunity to benefit our citizens.

The need for a Town center to improve Durham's image and sense of community was discussed in the 1989 and 2000 Master Plans as well as in the 1995 Community Development Plan. Within walking distance of Main Street and from the middle and high schools, the new library has the potential of anchoring a Town center for Durham and will become a social hub to draw residents of all ages into Town. The new library also will be a catalyst for the stabilization and redevelopment of an area of less than desirably maintained student and Greek housing.

Moreover, as stated in the Master Plan, the attractive design of the new library will produce a lasting positive visual image of the Town of Durham that is separate and independent from the University. The new library also addresses several immediate and short-term needs including meeting rooms, a large gathering space, smaller intimate spaces, as well as gathering places for seniors, teens, and children.

Since 1997 when townspeople voted to move the Durham Public Library from the Dimond Library at the University to the "temporary" storefront space at the Mill Plaza, the library Trustees have exhaustively researched scores of possible new locations, each of which turned out to be either far too expensive, unavailable, or otherwise unworkable. The Trustees' diligence has finally paid off and will result in a public library that reflects our community's values and needs and will enhance the quality of life of our citizens for decades to come.

Very truly yours,


Todd I. Selig
Administrator