

Appendix F

MPSC and AIA150 Public Information Materials

This Appendix includes flyers announcing MPSC/AIA150 meetings and informational material created by MPSC and AIA members for the general public and the news media.

What Do *You* See?

If Durham's Mill Plaza shopping center property were redeveloped, what would you like to see?



Come tell us.

On Wednesday, April 4, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Memorial Union Building Theater I, UNH



The Town of Durham has established a citizen committee to recommend a conceptual redevelopment plan for the nine-acre Mill Plaza property in the heart of our downtown. Public input – your input – is critical to authoring a credible, imaginative report. Please join us for our first full public hearing to help establish a vision statement for our work. We want to know what you think.

– Dave Howland, Chair, Mill Plaza Study Committee

Or write:

PlazaCommittee@ci.durham.nh.us

15 Newmarket Road, Durham, NH 03824

April 4, 2007

Welcome,



We're glad you're here.

The Mill Plaza Study Committee is beginning its task of crafting with the public a set of recommendations and conceptual designs for redeveloping the Mill Plaza property in downtown Durham. We work under a charge from the Town Council and with the encouragement of John Pinto, owner of the nine-acre Plaza. Tonight's gathering is a first step in what we hope will be a wide and constructive public conversation about the future of this vital part of our downtown.

On the back of this page is our draft Project Vision Statement – a working document to help guide the creation of conceptual designs for the site. We drafted this with guidance from our town's Community Development and Master Plans. And now we would like your input. Please tell us, what would you like to see on a redeveloped Mill Plaza property? What concerns you? What thoughts and ideas does the draft vision statement inspire?

We will use your feedback to develop designs that best represent the public's creativity and hopes for this space. We have many more meetings, workshops and hearings ahead. Please spread the word that we are looking for public participation and ideas. Send us any comments by e-mail to PlazaCommittee@ci.durham.nh.org or in a letter to 15 Newmarket Rd., Durham, NH 03824. Also, join us at our regular meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month at Town Hall. We look forward to hearing what you have to say.

– *Dave Howland, Chair, Mill Plaza Study Committee*

Please see draft vision statement on other side

Mill Plaza Study Committee

Draft Project Vision Statement

Based on initial public input, our deliberations thus far, and recommendations in Durham's Community Development and Master Plans, we have a consensus for supporting a redevelopment project on the Mill Plaza property that does the following:

1. Results from a genuine and thorough conversation with Durham residents and is brought to reality – taking the public's recommendations to heart – in a timely fashion.
2. Provides year-round community space – indoor and outdoor space where people linger to meet and talk to their friends, to shop and to enjoy all of the seasons.
3. Provides, in addition to an expanded grocery store, a variety of shops, stores and offices, and a variety of housing opportunities for families, including students, faculty and staff from UNH.
4. Links visually and spatially with Main Street and the UNH campus to encourage pedestrian flow between town, campus and the adjoining neighborhoods.
5. Strikes a balance between automobile, bicycle, and pedestrian access to the site that ensures the commercial viability of businesses on the property and protects the integrity of the bordering Faculty neighborhood.
6. Stands out as uniquely attractive though a design that embraces the principles of sustainability and green building – and compliments its surroundings, from the Main Street and campus on one end, to the brook and quiet residential neighborhood on the other.
7. Restores, enhances and protects College Brook and its wooded buffer to benefit the ecology, add natural beauty to the property, and improve and strengthen the boundary between the core downtown and the bordering residential neighborhood.
8. Includes space for a new permanent town library and, possibly, a town hall.
9. Broadens the town's tax base through both the commercial and aesthetic value it adds to our community.
10. Provides public parking – possibly a garage or deck – for short-term parking for visitors/ shoppers to our downtown

Please see letter on other side

Over the past several months, Durham residents have helped articulate a vision for a redeveloped Mill Plaza property. The time has come to begin translating this vision from words to sketches.



Take a look.

Tell us what you think.

On Saturday, Sept. 8, 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. at the Oyster River High School Multipurpose Room

Three teams of designers working with the Durham/ AIA150 Community Partnership will present their initial – very basic – concepts for redeveloping the Plaza site in downtown Durham. Future meetings will feature more detailed drawings based on input from the public, property owners, and further technical site and economic analysis.

Please join us for this essential step in furthering the creative process and plan to share with us your impressions. To see the Partnership's report about the public vision in which this work is grounded, please visit the MPSC town website at

<http://www.ci.durham.nh.us/index.html>.

Click on "government", then "Boards, Commissions & Committees"
Scroll to the MPSC homepage



– Dave Howland, Chair, Mill Plaza Study Committee & Patricia Sherman, Co-Chair AIA150

This work is sponsored by a partnership between the Town of Durham and the American Institute of Architects New Hampshire Chapter (AIANH). The pro-bono work of AIANH and its team of professional partners (PlanNH, The Jordan Institute, Granite State Landscape Architects, and the NH Preservation Alliance) is part of the "Blueprint for America" initiative – a yearlong observance in 2007 that marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of AIA.

TAKE ANOTHER LOOK.

Creating a new Durham Town Center: *Re-envisioning the Mill Plaza*

Share your ideas and insights on the latest round of designs for a redeveloped Mill Plaza property in the heart of downtown.



Sunday, November 4, 2007
1 pm - 4 pm
Oyster River High School,
Multipurpose Room
55 Coe Drive
Durham, NH 03824

At this workshop three design teams will present their second of three rounds of design concepts for the Mill Plaza. These concepts were revised based on YOUR feedback.

**Your continued
input is important!**

Visit us online at:
www.ci.durham.nh.us/

Find the Mill Plaza Committee link under "News"



The workshop is sponsored by the Durham/AIA150 Community Partnership: the Town of Durham and the American Institute of Architects NH Chapter (AIANH) AIA150 Partners. The project is part of AIANH's AIA150 Blueprint for America program. Supported in part by the Public Service Company of NH (PSNH) and grants from AIA and from Victor O. Schinnerer & Co. Inc./CNA Insurance Companies/AIA Trust.



**Public Service
of New Hampshire**

Have one more say.



The Mill Plaza Study Committee is preparing to soon wrap up its year-long effort to create – with the public – a conceptual design for a redeveloped Mill Plaza property. From this work a vision has emerged for a “village center” with space for a new public library.

This coming Wednesday, our team of designers with the American Institute of Architects’ New Hampshire Chapter will present a draft final concept that builds on the best elements of two earlier rounds of design. This will include a specific library site concept that has won unanimous support from the MPSC and the Library Board of Trustees. With your feedback, we will begin work on our final report for the Town Council to serve as Durham’s vision for a potential redevelopment.

To see and comment on the final draft concept, please join us:

Wednesday, February 20, 2008
6:30 p.m. Oyster River Middle School
Multi-purpose room

We welcome your thoughts. Visit us on the town website or write us at:
PlazaCommittee@ci.durham.nh.us

The workshop is sponsored by the Durham/AIA150 Community Partnership: the Town of Durham and the American Institute of Architects NH Chapter (AIANH) AIA150 Partners. The project is part of AIANH’s AIA150 Blueprint for America program.





A New Hampshire Community Planning Model: The Durham/AIA150 Community Partnership

a Blueprint for America initiative and part of the 150th anniversary of the American Institute of Architects

It's not often that a university town has the chance to dream about building a new town center right next to campus. But that is what is happening in Durham thanks to a unique partnership between the Town and the American Institute of Architect's New Hampshire Chapter (AIANH) and its partners — PlanNH, The Jordan Institute, Granite State Landscape Architects, and the NH Preservation Alliance — to work with Durham to envision a redevelopment of the Mill Plaza property in the heart of downtown. Durham was chosen as the model site by a competitive selection process in April.

The *pro-bono* work by AIANH and its partners is part of the "Blueprint for America" program — a yearlong observance in 2007 that marks the 150th anniversary of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

This nontraditional redevelopment process invites community insights from the project's inception to completion. This creative, collaborative effort aims to create a template for quality community development and to engage all of the stakeholders in the process from the beginning. The "Durham/AIA150 Community Partnership" has been created with the intent of inspiring other com-

munities near and far to try something different.

During a series of public workshops, Durham town officials, local business owners, citizens, New Hampshire architects, and the New Hampshire AIA150 Partners (including experts in architecture, landscape architecture, historic preservation, traffic, and economic analysis) are coming together to break new ground. This collaboration will demonstrate how a community, local government, property owners/developers, and design professionals can create a project that satisfies the aspirations of each stakeholder.

The New Hampshire Chapter's AIA150 Team is providing *pro bono* the design resources necessary to develop an exciting, environmentally sustainable, financially viable model project and see it through to construction.

Currently, three design teams — one from Durham and two consisting of other professionals from around the state — are developing concepts for the community to examine. They are working from the same set of data, based on an initial analysis of the property and community input compiled from meetings, e-mails, and focus groups. The design concepts will take into consideration analyses of

traffic, economic, and environmental factors and may feature a combination of shops, offices, and apartments along with a new library, town hall, and park space.

Early in 2008 a conceptual design for the redevelopment of the nine-acre Mill Plaza property will be presented to Durham's Town Council for review. The Plaza's owner, John Pinto, has encouraged the New Hampshire AIA150 Partners and the town in their efforts.

For More Information Contact:

Carolyn Isaak, Executive Director,
AIANH, 603-357-2863,
office@aianh.org
AIANH website: www.aianh.org/aia150.asp

AIANH AIA150 Partners:

Patricia Sherman FAIA, Co-Chair
Michael Castagna, Co-Chair
President PlanNH
AIANH
PlanNH
The Jordan Institute
Granite State Landscape Architects
NH Preservation Alliance

TOWN OF DURHAM

Dave Howland, Chair, Durham Mill
Plaza Study Committee
Mill Plaza Committee Website:
www.ci.durham.nh.us/GOVERNMENT/boards/mill_plaza/mill_plaza_study_committee.htm

Supported in part by the Public Service Company of NH (PSNH) and grants from AIA and from Victor O. Schinnerer & Co., Inc./CNA Insurance Companies/AIA Trust.



A New Hampshire Community Planning Model: The Durham/AIA150 Community Partnership

a Blueprint for America initiative and part of the
150th anniversary of the American Institute of Architects

Fact Sheet

WHAT: The “New Hampshire Community Planning Model” is a collaborative effort to envision a redevelopment of the Mill Plaza property in the heart of downtown Durham. It is a partnership between the Town of Durham and the American Institute of Architects New Hampshire Chapter (AIANH) and its AIA150 Partners – PlanNH, The Jordan Institute, Granite State Landscape Architects, and the NH Preservation Alliance. The partnership is working with the general public to create by early 2008 conceptual designs for the redevelopment of the nine-acre Mill Plaza property in downtown Durham next to the University of New Hampshire main campus. The work includes exploring the feasibility of establishing on the site a new library, town hall, park, and combination of shops, offices, and apartments.

WHO: The partners in the project include the town of Durham’s 13-member Mill Plaza Study Committee and the AIANH chapter and its AIA150 partners – PlanNH, The Jordan Institute, Granite State Landscape Architects, and the NH Preservation Alliance. Durham was selected from a group of applicants in April for *pro-bono* design and facilitation services from AIANH and its partners. AIANH’s AIA150 project is supported in part by the Public Service Company of NH (PSNH) and grants from AIA and the Victor O. Schinnerer & Co., Inc./CNA Insurance Companies/AIA Trust.

WHY: The community partnership between the Town of Durham and the American Institute of Architects New Hampshire Chapter team is working to create a dynamic community gathering space for local residents, including UNH students, staff and faculty, and Durham’s many visitors. This collaboration is demonstrating how a community, local government, property owners/developers, and design professionals can create a project that satisfies the aspirations of each stakeholder. The “New Hampshire Community Planning Model” was created with the intent of inspiring other communities near and far to try something different. This redevelopment project is part of the AIA’s Blueprint for America program – a yearlong observance in 2007 that marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of AIA.

WHEN: The collaborative re-development process between the Town of Durham and the American Institute of Architects New Hampshire AIA150 Partners began in April 2007. All

partners are working to produce a unified conceptual design by early 2008. Drawing on studies of the site and public input, three design teams are creating three concepts to be melded into one. The ultimate goal is to produce a project backed by the owner and developer that meets the community's goals and is slated for construction by 2009.

WHERE: The 9.7 acre Mill Plaza property is located next to the UNH campus at the corner of Main Street and Mill Road in downtown Durham – about 9 miles from the NH Seacoast.

HOW: A multi-stage process, including public meetings and workshops, is underway – sponsored by the Town of Durham and the American Institute of Architects New Hampshire Chapter's AIA150 Partners (including experts in architecture, landscape design, historic preservation, traffic, and economic analysis). These workshops are bringing together Durham town officials, citizens, and New Hampshire architects in hopes of creating a redeveloped Plaza that makes sense for everyone. Over the summer the Mill Plaza Study Committee and AIANH and its partners assembled data for three independent design teams. The teams worked through the summer and are presenting their designs this fall through early 2008 for the community to view and question. Ultimately a hybrid design will emerge from the best solutions to be presented before the Durham Town Council for approval. The ultimate goal is to produce a project that meets with the consensus of all involved and is slated for construction by 2009.

The planning underway for the redevelopment of the Mill Plaza property in the heart of downtown Durham is sponsored by a partnership between the Town of Durham and the American Institute of Architects New Hampshire Chapter (AIANH) and its AIA150 Partners – PlanNH, The Jordan Institute, Granite State Landscape Architects, and the NH Preservation Alliance. The pro-bono work of AIANH and its partners is part of the nationwide “Blueprint for America” initiative – a yearlong observance in 2007 that marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). AIANH's AIA150 project is supported in part by the Public Service Company of NH (PSNH) and grants from AIA and the Victor O. Schinnerer & Co., Inc./CNA Insurance Companies/AIA Trust.

For More Information Contact:

AIANH AIA150 Partners:

Patricia Sherman FAIA, Co-Chair
603-763-9085
Michael Castagna, Co-Chair
President PlanNH, 603-625-1912
Carolyn Isaak, Executive Director, AIANH
603-357-2863, office@aianh.org

AIANH website:
<http://www.aianh.org/aia150.asp>

Town of Durham:

Dave Howland, Chair,
Mill Plaza Study Committee,
603-969-3634
Todd Selig, Town Administrator,
Town of Durham, 603-868-5571

Mill Plaza Committee Website:
http://www.ci.durham.nh.us/GOVERNMENT/boards/mill_plaza/mill_plaza_study_committee.htm



A New Hampshire Community Planning Model: The Durham/AIA150 Community Partnership

a Blueprint for America initiative and part of the
150th anniversary of the American Institute of Architects

It's not often that a university town has the chance to dream about building a new town center right next to campus. But that is what is happening in Durham – home of the University of New Hampshire – thanks to a unique partnership between the Town of Durham and the American Institute of Architect's New Hampshire Chapter (AIANH) and its partners. AIANH has joined forces with PlanNH, The Jordan Institute, Granite State Landscape Architects, and the NH Preservation Alliance to work with Durham to envision a redevelopment of the Mill Plaza property in the heart of downtown. Their *pro-bono* work is part of the "Blueprint for America" program – a yearlong observance in 2007 that marks the 150th anniversary of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). AIANH's AIA150 project is supported in part by the Public Service Company of NH (PSNH) and grants from AIA and the Victor O. Schinnerer & Co., Inc./CNA Insurance Companies/AIA Trust.

Under the Blueprint for America program, members of AIA chapters nationwide are sharing their knowledge and experience to offer communities the opportunity to celebrate their heritage while addressing emerging challenges and trends. Here in New Hampshire, AIA members set out to partner with a local community to create a mixed-use development that will demonstrate design and construction principles that are environmentally sustainable, affordable, and in keeping with community character. Upon the conclusion of a competitive selection process, the Town of Durham was chosen to participate. The New Hampshire Chapter's AIA150 Team is now providing, *pro bono*, the design resources necessary to develop an exciting, sustainable, financially viable model project and see it through to construction.

During a series of public workshops, Durham town officials, citizens, New Hampshire architects, and the New Hampshire AIA150 Partners (including experts in architecture, landscape architecture, historic preservation, traffic, and economic analysis) are coming together to break new ground. The New Hampshire AIA150 team members are working hand-in-hand with members of Durham's Mill Plaza Study Committee, which includes local business owners, neighborhood residents, landlords, the University of New Hampshire, and representatives of the town's Library Board of Trustees, Historic District Commission, Planning Board, and Town Council. This collaboration will demonstrate how a community, local government, property owners/developers, and design professionals can create a project that satisfies the aspirations of each stakeholder. Early in 2008 a conceptual design for the redevelopment of the nine-acre Mill Plaza property will be presented to Durham's Town

District Commission, Planning Board, and Town Council. Collectively, members provide a vital link between the planning process and town residents with a wide array of interests at stake.

Since April, the MPSC has worked closely with AIANH and its AIA150 Partners to develop the Durham/AIA150 Community Partnership Work Plan and to facilitate and host focus groups and meetings. The committee will continue to work closely with its AIA150 partners to see the project through to completion.

About AIANH and the Blueprint for America

AIANH's work in Durham is part of a larger project called the "Blueprint for America" which is a celebration of the AIA's 150th anniversary. Collectively "Blueprint for America" projects are focused on improving our communities by engaging designers and community participants in projects that make our towns and cities better places to live and work. The AIANH team includes PlanNH, the Jordan Institute, Granite State Landscape Architects, and the NH Preservation Alliance.

AIANH was awarded a very competitive \$10,000 grant from AIA to undertake an ambitious program that demonstrates how a collaborative process that includes the community, local government, property owners/developers, and design professionals can create the type of projects that satisfy the aspirations of stakeholders. AIANH and its AIA150 partners are now providing, *pro bono*, the design resources necessary to engage a willing town, Durham, in a series of workshops to create a downtown mixed-use project that is environmentally sustainable, affordable, and in keeping with community character — and that will result in actual construction on a specific piece of under-utilized property.

This project is breaking new ground in defining the relationship between community, owner/developer, and design professionals. To insure its success, AIANH and its AIA150 partners have hired a professional facilitator from the Consensus Building Institute – Patrick Field – to manage the flow of communications essential to true collaboration in which all voices are heard. In addition, we have hired a videographer and a public relations firm to spread the word about this process so we can share our experience with all of New Hampshire's communities.

The planning underway for the redevelopment of the Mill Plaza property in the heart of downtown Durham is sponsored by a partnership between the Town of Durham and the American Institute of Architects New Hampshire Chapter (AIANH) and its AIA150 Partners – PlanNH, The Jordan Institute, Granite State Landscape Architects, and the NH Preservation Alliance. The pro-bono work of AIANH and its partners is part of the nationwide "Blueprint for America" initiative – a yearlong observance in 2007 that marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). AIANH's AIA150 project is supported in part by the Public Service Company of NH (PSNH) and grants from AIA and the Victor O. Schinnerer & Co., Inc./CNA Insurance Companies/AIA Trust.



built closer to Main Street where student housing is already in place.

Office Space: The Committee believes office space should be a key element of the mixed uses on the site.

Retail: The Committee is strongly supportive of additional retail on the site.

Town Library: Durham needs a new public library. The Committee is strongly supportive of providing space for a library on the site to attract residents during daytime, weekend, and evening hours.

Open Space: The Committee supports open public spaces that link the redevelopment to the university and to Main Street – active, multi-functional spaces that encourage lingering and gathering for such events as concerts, discussions, drama, and other activities. The committee supports maintaining the existing

pedestrian and bicycle gateway to the Faculty neighborhood via Chesley Drive.

College Brook: The Committee strongly supports protecting and enhancing the natural functions of the brook to provide recreational opportunities (such as a walking path) and aesthetic value. This includes treating storm water through innovative low-impact development techniques.

Vehicular Access: It is recommended that a continuous road be developed through the site from Mill Road to Main Street.

Abutting properties: If abutting properties become available, they could be integrated into the overall plan.

The Mill Plaza Study Committee will present its final recommendations early next year after discussing the third and final round of design now underway. We are very grateful for the public participation so far and for the help of our AIA partners. Patricia Sherman, who has worked tirelessly for our community on behalf of the AIA, hopes this open process will serve as a model for other communities across New Hampshire and the nation.

I think I can speak for all of us when I say we look forward to a redeveloped Town center that Durham can be proud of.

citizens or Town officials. Throughout the year, we continued to see a decline in tenant and rental housing disturbances com-

...continued on next page

Rental Housing Commission

MARK HENDERSON, Chair

The Rental Housing Commission is made up of ten members from various organizations involved with rental housing and its impact on our community.

2007 Accomplishments:

The Commission has become a very active venue for citizens, tenants, landlords, and Town officials to discuss situations, actions, and events pertaining to rental housing that may be detrimental to our community. It meets quarterly with special meetings held if requested by



The Mill Plaza in downtown Durham. Photo Courtesy of Francoise Melsnes, Condor Aerial Image System.



Mill Plaza Study Committee

DAVID HOWLAND, Chair

Since February, 2007, the Mill Plaza Study Committee has hosted dozens of public meeting and workshops to generate ideas and conceptual plans for redeveloping the nine-acre Mill Plaza property in the heart of downtown.

We have done so with the encouragement of Plaza property owner John Pinto – who in late 2006 suggested the Town develop its vision for the future – and with a generous award of support and technical assistance from the American Institute of Architects' New Hampshire chapter. This includes the pro-bono work of three teams of architects from Portsmouth (JSA), Manchester (Lavalée Brensinger), and Durham (the "Midnight Oil" crew). Now, with the benefit of input from scores of residents on our evolving concepts, we are moving forward with the goal of presenting a final design to the Town Council in early 2008.

We already have much to show for our efforts, including: 1) a comprehensive, publicly-vetted vision statement grounded in the Town Master Plan and other important local policy and planning documents, 2) two rounds of design and public feedback on seven separate concepts, 3) an analysis by RKG, a



The Mill Plaza in downtown Durham. Photo Courtesy of Francoise Meissner, Condor Aerial Image System.

Durham economic, planning and real estate development consulting firm, and 4) a pro-bono study of College Brook and its buffer by experts in ecology and landscape design from the UNH department of Natural Resources and UNH's Cooperative Extension. All of these can be found on our homepage on the Durham Town Website (from Durham's main homepage, scroll under "News" to our site link) along with agendas and meeting minutes. These materials will be part of a comprehensive report to the Council.

We believe that our partnership's unconventional approach – the process of inviting the community to work with experts in the designing process – represents Durham's best chance to spur a redevelopment that citizens can support and celebrate. Our committee represents a wide range of interests including Durham businesses, the university, the abutting Faculty neighborhood, landlords, the Town library, Planning Board, Town Council, and Historic District Commission. Through much discussion and study, we have generated a great deal of consensus, thanks in large part to the efforts of an excellent facilitator provided by the AIA – Patrick Field of the Cambridge Consensus Building Institute. Below, in broad strokes, are some key elements of that consensus to help guide the final round of design:

Overall Concept: The Committee believes that the Plaza should, in broad terms, be considered a "Village Center" and not just an improved shopping center. Thus, mixed uses from retail to office to housing, linkages to Main Street, multiple forms of access (car, pedestrian, bike), public and open space are all important.

Housing: The Committee believes that housing needs to be a part of the redevelopment and that any housing should be

COMMUNITY COMMENTARY

New home for Durham library may be in the offing

For the past year, with generous help from the American Institute of Architects' New Hampshire chapter, Durham residents have been busy creating a vision for redeveloping the Mill Plaza property into a new village center in the downtown area. The study, encouraged by plaza property owner John Pinto, has included dozens of public meetings and workshops, several reports, and two rounds of concept designs by three teams of architects working pro bono. Throughout the design process, one thing has remained constant: the desire for a new town library somewhere on the site.

As the Town Council appointed Mill Plaza Study Com-

mittee and its AIA partners near the completion of a final report and recommendations, a convergence of good timing, consensus building, and some creative thinking has presented an opportunity that could both secure a site for a new library and provide a community-oriented catalyst for a wider redevelopment.

Recently, both the MPSC and the library board of trustees unanimously endorsed a concept that would locate a new two-story library at the edge of the wooded southeast corner of the property — about 40 paces from its rented store front at the plaza.

The idea has much to offer. A new library on this convenient

site would serve to draw visitors to the back of the plaza from its current entrance on Mill Road via a new road — a "library parkway" with a pedestrian and bicycle path — that traces the College Brook corridor.

In the broader redevelopment concept under study, this road would eventually curve northward to a new access onto Main Street. The library, visible from Mill Road, would look out on two parcels of wooded wetland across the brook that would remain undeveloped, providing flood control, wildlife habitat, and a place for nature walks. The library and these adjoining properties would serve to buffer the sur-

rounding the Faculty Road neighborhood from noise and motor vehicle traffic — addressing issues long of critical concern to the neighborhood. Under this scenario, the land for the library site, the buffer and roadway would be owned by — and be the responsibility of — the town of Durham. The remainder of the privately-owned Mill Plaza site would become an attractive, accessible village center of developable land presenting a range of future commercial possibilities that the MPSC and the design teams are considering and will present to the property owner and the Town Council in the coming months.

Library Trustees and supporters are eager to move ahead with finding a permanent home for a new library and their first choice is the Mill Plaza location. It is too early to know all of the potential costs and benefits of this concept. But the MPSC and the library board believe the promise it holds for improving civic life in Durham and sparking a beneficial redevelopment, along with its potential to win community support, merits formal study and negotiation. We hope this will emerge as a win-win for all involved and mark the beginning of a new town center that the community can be proud of. The MPSC plans to present a final concept and recommenda-

tions in March. Meanwhile, we encourage you to add your voice to this process. For meeting times and to view our work to date, please see our committee's page on the town website.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions at PlazaCommittee@ci.durham.nh.us.

DAVE HOWLAND

Chair
Mill Plaza Study Committee

DOUGLAS BENCKS

Chair
Library board of trustees

JULIAN SMITH

Town Council representative
to the MPSC
Durham