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Town of Durham

FEB 11 2014

7 Simons Lane
Durham, NH 03824
February 12, 2014

Planning, Assessing
and Zoning

Dear Durham Planning Board:

I, Shawn Finnegan, am the DPOA for Ted and Liz Finnegan. I will be reading a letter that has been written by me and my siblings in regards the plans for the property at 15 Madbury Road. My father is in favor of selling the house.

Ted Finnegan has owned the house at 15 Madbury Road since 1958. He and our mother moved to SpruceWood assisted living September 2012; they were the last of the old family-style Mathes Terrace neighborhood to leave. Our parents while living there had always been good citizens of the town and good neighbors, welcoming both dental practices and student housing as the Mathes Terrace neighborhood began to change.

Gone are the days when parents would stand on their porches and yell for their children to come home to dinner. Business zoning in conjunction with university needs has converted Mathes Terrace from a sleepy cul-de-sac filled with families to a busy commercial street.

My father Ted and the rest of the family are in favor of the proposed development before the board today. We find it proportionate in scale and tasteful in design. We understand that certain neighbors oppose the plan because it will increase the number of students residing across from their businesses. Doubtless it will. But there are a couple of realities that need to be faced. It is not a family neighborhood anymore but a student residential area. Ironically, the project before you today is much smaller than the approved proposed and constructed developments on either side. We also understand that the opposition to the proposal would like the Finnegan house and the Hull house to remain as barriers to further growth. It seems to us unfair to try and use our property in this way.

15 Madbury Road will be sold. We urge the town of Durham to approve the proposed development plan before you today. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shawn Finnegan, Tim Finnegan, Terry Finnegan, Toby Finnegan, Michael Finnegan,
Brendan Finnegan, Bridget Finnegan (Kitty Marple, our sister, has recused herself because she is a Durham town councilor)