

February 10, 2016

To: Michael Behrendt, Andrew Corrow and members of the Planning Board

As a 40+ year resident of Durham and a former member of various Town Boards I offer the following observations:

The principle business that draws everyone to the Mill Plaza is our grocery store therefore its location should be the first priority.

Commercial development would be of benefit to the community and should take precedence over the housing component of this redevelopment.

We need adequate parking with safe and effective circulation of cars for businesses in the plaza and for our downtown.

By relocating the grocery store, a parking garage could be built into the hill with the possibility of an access from Main Street where there currently are outdated buildings east of Libby's or the one just east of the Orion buildings.

Parking associated with apartment rentals isn't necessary in the Town Center and is contrary to the UNH/Town goal for a walk-able community.

Some of the proposed residential units should be built for mature adults including seniors, preferably in a separate building overlooking the brook.

Snow should be dealt with in a much more responsible way, respecting the natural environment that we treasure.

Noise and lights from activity in the plaza at night, including pedestrians and cars driving through the plaza, will negatively impact the quality of life and the value of homes in adjacent neighborhoods.

Safety for children and adults that walk from adjacent neighborhoods through the plaza must be given special consideration.

Thank you for your effort and dedication and best wishes for finding solutions to a Mill Plaza redevelopment project that reflects excellent planning and design and is worthy of support from the citizens of Durham.

Sincerely,
Annmarie Harris
56 Oyster River Road
Durham, NH 03824