



## Town of Durham, NH

8 Newmarket Road  
Durham, NH 03824  
[www.ci.durham.nh.us](http://www.ci.durham.nh.us)

May 4, 2017

RE: RiverWoods

Dear Planning Board Members,

As the Economic Development Director, and on behalf of Durham's Economic Development Committee, I would like to express support for RiverWoods Continuing Care Facility proposed for Stone Quarry. The economic impact for this project will be similar to the economic impacts pointed out for another senior housing project, Young Drive. I am attaching a letter outlining those points rather than repeat them here.

In addition, please note the following:

- RiverWoods will positively impact the economic activity in Durham during construction by providing wages for construction workers and sales for local contractors and vendors.
- To operate the facility, RiverWoods will purchase materials, equipment and supplies, again from local and regional vendors. At a recent visit of their Exeter facility, it was pointed out that they purchase a lot of locally sourced food for their residents and take pride in providing high quality meals.
- RiverWoods will provide a large and stable source of employment to Durham and the immediate vicinity anticipating 120 Full Time Equivalent positions.
- Employees will in turn spend money at local restaurants and stores.
- Residents will bring their consumer spending dollars with them, to shop and dine locally.
- RiverWoods has a long history of financial and voluntary contributions from both residents and staff. These activities include supporting the arts, religious and social service programs, environmental, educational, healthcare, political and fraternal organizations.

Durham provides an excellent venue for RiverWoods. We are a desirable community that offers natural and recreational opportunities, as well as cultural and academic resources older residents enjoy. Our demographics indicate a growing retirement age segment and already many have expressed a desire to have this option available to them. It would be beneficial for these long-time residents to remain in the community they already know and love.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Humphrey

Economic Development Director

*Note: All present members of the Economic Development Committee voted in favor except two members who recused themselves because they are members of the Planning Board: Lorne Parnell and Bob Brown.*