

May 31, 2021

Dear Mr. Selig and Members of the Durham Planning Board,

We write to express our concern related to a situation that occurred after the May 19, 2021 Planning Board meeting.

Following the conclusion of that meeting, three members of the public who had attended in person were conversing in front of Town Hall in the handicapped parking space. Shortly after, CDA Agent Sean McCauley and Planning Board/Town Council Member Sally Tobias walked outside. The two spoke together near the Town Hall entry, within our view, for at least 5 minutes. We were surprised to witness this conversation, and remarked among ourselves the apparent inappropriateness of this lengthy interaction.

Whether or not Mr. McCauley and Ms. Tobias were discussing the Mill Plaza Redevelopment Project is irrelevant. A conversation like this unfortunately conveys a sense of familiarity unbecoming to their roles as it jeopardizes the perception of a fair process.

Respectfully,

Annmarie Harris, 56 Oyster River Road, Durham
Nate Swanson, 51 Mill Road, Durham