

**From:** [Bernadette Komonchak](#)  
**To:** [Karen Edwards](#)  
**Subject:** Planning Board meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 17, 2021 3:34:19 PM

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To the Planning Board:

I am writing to ask the Planning Board to reject the plaza plan for a 5 story building and plans to destroy the wooded area adjacent to the plaza in order to erect a paved parking area atop a 25 foot retaining wall.

This letter contains no scientific or professional analysis. It is simply the thoughts of a long time resident confined by Covid and limited to musings about this town that I have loved for 45 years.

When I look out at the two story colonial across the street from mine, I see blue skies and evergreens above it. When my mind projects three more stories atop it, I see trees and sky blotted out. Why would a small town like Durham want that?

When I think of the larger towns around us, Exeter, Dover and Rochester, I see towns that even at their most prosperous were wise enough to restrain from buildings on their Main Street that blotted out the sky. They kept buildings to two to three stories. They retained the feeling of familiarity and neighborliness of smaller buildings.

In all ways the 25 foot retaining wall and replacement of a wooded area with pavement seems like a very bad idea. As others have suggested, the wall and pavement, in addition to threatening College Brook, Mill Pond and the estuary and flooding of Chesley Drive, is an invitation for risky behavior on the part of children and students.

For those of us who attended meetings years ago in order collectively to project what we wanted for our town as it grew, it is especially painful to see our recommendations set aside for the benefit of outside interests. I hope you will resist those pressures.

Sincerely,  
Bernadette Komonchak  
1 Thompson Lane  
Tel. 603-868-2112

Sent from Jupiter