

**From:** [LaPolice, Mary](#)  
**To:** [Karen Edwards](#); [Rick Taintor](#)  
**Subject:** Plaza Project Feedback for Tonight's Meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 2:39:30 PM

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Hello Ms. Edwards and Mr. Taintor,

I know this is coming in late, but I'm hoping the following feedback/questions can be included in the "read aloud" portion of tonight's meeting regarding the Durham Plaza Redevelopment:

I am a long time resident of the Faculty Neighborhood, one of the proud second generational neighbors in fact. I call out the recent news that in addition to Wildcat Fitness facility having recently closed permanently, now the beloved Candy Bar shop on Main Street has announced they will do the same in midst of Covid-19 calamity. A once vibrant, family owned and whimsical addition to our Main street commerce landscape.

It's disheartening among all the other stresses of the pandemic to know that our specialty businesses will be facing profound affects now and the status of our town's commerce may forever be changed. It's been awful I'm sure for the brand new Italian Restaurant we were all looking forward to opening downtown, on the heels of losing Bella's....I'm hoping they have the capital to remain in limbo on their current project to build out and open at a later date.

In light of these and many other uncertainties, I find it hard to understand why we would be allowing Colonial Durham's redevelopment proposals to continue without a hard pause, so that we may better come to grips with what our town will look like in the coming months and even year to 18 months. It's unfair to push forward when so many concerned citizens are coping with many other pressing matters but only to come out and find that we've been brushed under the rug in our efforts due to inability to gather and focus.

It's also rumored that UNH may not even allow students to return for the Fall semester as well and will continue with on-line classes. This combined with lower overall student enrollment overall, lack of potential small business, lack of new or any office rentals with everyone working from home, I ask ....

**What in the world do we need any of these buildings for?** Colonial Durham's redevelopment proposals have been problematic from the very beginning in that they would lower the property values and damage the lifestyles of the family homes in the downtown neighborhoods, create an impossible traffic situation on Mill Rd. in an already proven dangerous, even deadly, parking lot entrance (Mrs. Bianchi was walking back to her home in the Faculty Neighborhood when she was struck and killed by a truck that could not see her crossing.) They would also decrease the appeal of the Plaza as a Town Center and destroy the potential for a redevelopment that would stimulate shopping, eating, interacting with neighbors, and so forth. But beyond that, **the current health emergency and the very uncertain financial situation demands that such proposals be put on hold** until we see what happens to UNH's enrollment and the economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Mary LaPolice |  
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