

January 14, 2020

Planning Board
8 Newmarket Road
Durham, NH 03824

RE: Continued Public Hearing - Mill Plaza Redevelopment. 7 Mill Road. Continued review of formal application for: 1) Site plan and 2) Conditional Use for mixed use redevelopment project and activity within the wetland and shoreland overlay districts. A revised general layout has been submitted for review. Colonial Durham Associates, property owner. Sean McCauley, agent. Joe Persechino, Tighe & Bond, engineer. Ari Pollack, attorney. (Rick Taintor is serving as the Town's Contract Planner.) Central Business District. Map 5, Lot 1-1.

Dear Members of the Board,

I attended the Technical Review Group meeting this morning, the major part of which focused on the January 2, 2020 proposed site plan for redeveloping the Mill Plaza.

Rick Taintor noted the obvious: it is decidedly less appealing than the previously submitted version, having lost pedestrian-friendly and streetscape features. He also pressed to the heart of the constraints underlying the weaker quality of the current plan. I urge Planning Board members to watch the DCAT recording prior to the January 22 meeting.

Unfortunately, the key issues of snow and stormwater management got short shrift.

Snow management

There was NO discussion about snow removal and/or storage along the vehicular access from Mill Road, an area far from the proposed easterly snow storage areas.

So I conclude that it will be business as usual, i.e., that huge piles of salt and vehicular runoff contaminants will be pushed into—and kill even more—trees at the top of the steep bank of the College Brook, further degrading water quality and reducing the vegetative buffer to the abutting Brookside Commons over-55 apartments. **Please address this issue!**

Stormwater management

We have good stormwater management regulations, and I respect the professional qualifications of both Joe Persechino and Tighe & Bond, but **I urge the Board to require third-party independent review of any proposed treatment plan.** This is not the type of project on which we can afford unfulfilled promises. Dealing with vast asphalt runoff abutting an NHDES-designated impaired waterbody that frequently overflows its banks demands that many heads work toward a future-oriented, thorough solution.

Sincerely yours,

Robin