

**From:** [David McCormick](#)  
**To:** [Karen Edwards](#); [Rick Taintor](#)  
**Subject:** Conservation Commission regarding College Brook  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 04, 2020 11:33:12 AM

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Durham Conservation Commission,

My name is David McCormick and I live at 5 Chesley Drive in Durham. I am writing to you because I understand that the Conservation Commission is giving their input to the planning board regarding the Mill Road Plaza redevelopment. We have lived at 5 Chesley Drive for almost 6 years. Our backyard is actually split in two by College Brook. When we first purchased the house we were excited by the fact that we had a brook running through our property. Then we got some heavy rain and then the flash flooding that always follows. If we have heavy or prolonged rain the brook floods to the top. During most heavy storms the water overflows into the yard. In October of 2016 the brook flooded to within feet of our house. This is not just a little standing water either. It is a raging brook that has caused considerable erosion to our property. The brook sits in a wide and deep trench full of exposed roots, rocks and areas where soil has collapsed in.

If you look at College brook upstream before the plaza it's a small meandering brook. After the plaza it's wide and deep. All storm water and snow from the plaza is either washed or pushed into College Brook creating a deluge for us downstream. Weekly, I pull trash out of the brook. Bottles, traffic cones, diapers, cans, food wrappers just to name a few.

On July 20, 2019 I emailed Mike Lynch with my concerns about flooding in our yard. A few days later Mike stopped by to check the yard out. He told me that the flooding was most definitely caused by the plaza and he assured me that any redevelopment of the plaza would include wastewater management. He specifically said that any new construction would require collection, filtering, and slow release of storm water. It was the rule and that it would have to be applied. Once this was fixed we wouldn't have flooding issues any more.

I'm concerned that the redevelopment plan doesn't address the flooding issue or health of the brook. The current plan includes removing forested land and adding a massive over-sized building and parking area. This will only add to the flooding and erosion issues.

Respectfully,

David McCormick  
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