

From: [Karen Crowley](#)
To: sallyneedell@gmail.com
Cc: [Karen Edwards](#); [Rick Taintor](#)
Subject: Plaza Project
Date: Friday, November 20, 2020 6:09:54 PM

Dear Conservation Commission Members,

I'm writing to encourage you all to do what you can to protect our downtown wooded areas and wetlands.

I've been a resident of the faculty neighborhood for 11 years and a Lee resident prior to that for 11 years. All four of my children walked from our home to the Middle and High schools, going down the path to Chesley and through the plaza lot and up to Main St. One just graduated from UNH, one is at UNH now, and one has just applied. I feel that our family has a very good feel for the needs of the downtown community and the needs of students at UNH.

Chesley, the wooded path to Faculty, the path to the plaza, the wooded area behind Chesley and the Community Church - we consider all of that our neighborhood. Honestly, even the plaza itself has been a part of our neighborhood.

We would love to see an upgrade to the plaza area that fosters more outdoor enjoyment, more of a town center, more gathering space, updated buildings with shops and restaurants. I envision the European town centers that encourage biking, walking, and beautiful spaces for socializing, shopping, and eating. We would love to see development that ADDS to our downtown and to its enjoyment by community and students alike.

The current design proposed by CDA doesn't meet the needs of our town and doesn't add anything to the beauty or livability of Durham. It breaks my heart to think of those changes. And now there is discussion of taking down all those trees to add another parking lot? And what justification is there for violating the wetland setbacks? It's my understanding that years were spent considering the best ideas for this space and the Mill Plaza Study report details all of those findings. Why are we even considering this poor design along with the environmental impacts it causes?

I encourage you to look deeply at what is being proposed and consider the negative impact it would have on us all, flora and fauna alike!

Thank you,

Karen Crowley
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