

To: The Planning Board  
From: Lea Macheras, 13 Oyster River Road  
Date: June 13, 2021  
Re: Mill Plaza

Thank you for all your hard work regarding the Mill Plaza project, which I understand is complex. I certainly appreciate the time such a review takes, and I hope what's ultimately decided results in a positive benefit to the Town.

I went to school at UNH and about a year ago, after graduation, my family and I decided to purchase a house in the Faculty Neighborhood. I love Durham. When I attended the University, I resided for seven years at both on campus, and off campus facilities. I can say from personal experience that students find a reason to drink and get very loud every day of the week. That's just what happens with college students who live in family neighborhoods and drink. It's my observation that these students who exploit this living arrangement are more likely to take advantage of drinking underage. I have seen students yell and scream while walking by houses. With their inhibitions loosened, I have even seen students urinating on lawns.

I know of two illustrations that prove this point. In the first, a drunk student walked into a Faculty Neighborhood home thinking he was arriving at a "party." In the second, a drunk student pounded on the door after 11 pm of a Faculty Neighborhood home trying to be let in to the "party".

When I was told about the planned student housing in Mill Plaza, I was shocked. With my personal experience, I know that adding student housing to the Plaza will have a major negative impact on the Faculty Neighborhood. Noise level, litter, lights, and excessive traffic will increase tremendously. Also as of right now, at 8:30 the Plaza pretty much shuts down. I'm sure with all the students, the developer has planned for a bar to be included in the commercial space. If that's the case, the noise will last until the bar closes. I wouldn't want to live on Faculty Drive while drunk students are yelling to each other in the parking lot.

Thank you for time and consideration. After reading this letter, I'm sure you'll agree that my first-hand experiences indicate that the Conditional Use criteria of noise, light, litter, and traffic are not be met.

Very respectfully

Lea Macheras