

From: [Nathanael Stewart](#)
To: [Karen Edwards](#)
Cc: [Todd Selig](#); [Durham Town Council](#)
Subject: To the Durham PB, c/o Administrative Asst Karen Edwards
Date: Wednesday, February 02, 2022 7:33:40 PM

Dear Members of the Durham Planning Board,

We are writing to voice our opposition to the current Mill Plaza redevelopment plan.

The current plan is a disaster for the Faculty neighborhood and the future of downtown Durham. It is a transparent "money-grab" at the expense of Faculty neighborhood residents, other landlords, and better plans that would allow residents, the town's finances, and the developer to flourish together.

Given the enormous amount of time spent considering this development, it is devastating that this destructive "zombie plan" continues to be pushed forward - regardless of the serious zoning issues and consistently negative resident feedback. It is a "zombie plan" because it continues to step forward even though it should have died long ago.

Just this past weekend, our family went for a walk through downtown Durham. As we walked down Main Street towards Newmarket Road, we noted the many student parties - blasting outdoor music, tables full of beer and hard alcohol, drinking games, and crowds of students boisterously socializing - the music and voices echoing between buildings.

Yet as we rounded the corner first to Mill Pond Road, and then Faculty Road, the noise mostly vanished - as it always does. This happens because the current plaza and the Church Hill Woods create an effective buffer between the Faculty Neighborhood and the private student dorms found downtown.

The current plan destroys this buffer and as such, it will destroy the quality of life for Faculty neighborhood residents. It is an unattractive blight that will permanently mar the aesthetics of downtown Durham. If allowed to proceed, the current plan will be cursed by Durham town residents for generations to come - a critical point in the town's history when long-term thinking was cast aside for short-term financial gain.

Durham and its residents deserve better.

Sincerely,

Nathanael and Jessica Stewart
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Durham, NH