

**From:** [RobinM](#)  
**To:** [Durham Energy Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [Rick Taintor](#); [Karen Edwards](#)  
**Subject:** Energy Committee | downtown developments | Mill Plaza | DEC  
**Date:** Monday, March 29, 2021 12:11:35 PM

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(Karen: please forward this email to the Planning Board and post on the Mill Plaza Citizens Comments website. Thank you.)

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Greetings, Energy Committee members --

Since leaving the Energy Committee as Council Rep, I have been out of the loop on many energy issues but was pleased to learn recently that you may now be reviewing the Energy Considerations Checklist. I urge that you will do so expeditiously and then recommend to the Planning Board that at least some of those recommendations become requirements.

More immediately, I urge you to **weigh in on the Mill Plaza development** project under review at the Planning Board.

The Planning Board has never held a focused energy-related discussion in its more-than 6-year-long saga of the Mill Plaza development application. The review -- and public hearing -- appears to be nearing a close after more than six years, yet I have not yet seen any formal comment from the Energy Committee.

(Former DEC member Steve Weglarz did comment briefly at a February 2, 2016 Technical Review Committee on the project, yet that was only for preliminary designs; the DEC has not weighed in during the formal review process, thus to all intents and purposes, it has not weighed in at all.)

I hope you will remedy that omission quickly and send comments to the Planning Board in care of Karen Edwards in the Planning Department at <[kedwards@ci.durham.nh.us](mailto:kedwards@ci.durham.nh.us)>

It is important that the Board hear your voice. I believe that the community is grateful for the work you do and relies on you to bring energy and climate change issues to the fore, whenever and wherever relevant.

A Committee letter might cover the below topics, but you may consider others, of course:

**A. Transportation** -- Large numbers of parking spaces are proposed, yet small numbers for (1) **bicycle storage**, none for (2) **rental cars** (e.g., Zipcars). One could encourage developers of apartment buildings to provide (3) **parking as an add-on cost** to disincentivize car ownership and do away with subsidies by tenants who do not own cars.

**B. Renewable energy** -- (1) Siting and preparation for **solar access and generation** -- asking that the Board require a solar-ready zone, as recommended in the Checklist, for new Buildings B and C; (2) installation of **electric vehicle charging stations** (which have only just last week been mentioned but have never been incorporated in the 10 site plans submitted)

Thank you for considering these suggestions.

Regards,

Robin Mower  
Durham, NH

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