

From: [Michael Behrendt](#)
Subject: Parking ordinance - email from Susan Richman
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 12:28:09 PM

To the Planning Board,
Please see the email from Susan Richman below.

Michael Behrendt

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From: Susan Richman [mailto:susan7richman@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, October 11, 2019 12:02 PM
To: Michael Behrendt
Subject: Proposed change to parking regulations

Dear Members of the Durham Planning Board,

Thank you for your stewardship and service to the town. I am writing you now because of my profound concern about the proposed change to parking regulations.

I live on Cowell Drive, in the "pocket neighborhood" behind the post office. At the moment, we have 3 houses that are rented to students. (There are 4 other homes which have been student rentals for a number of years, from time to time.)

Currently, the student rental homes may have anywhere from 2 to 7 motor vehicles parked on or in front of their lots. The number goes up for parties, or perhaps if there are sleep-over guests. Vehicles are in the driveway, on the lawn, and (illegally for our neighborhood) on the street. Two or three of the vehicles are motorcycles, so perhaps a single renter might own both a car and a motorcycle. If the garage door is up, often an additional car can be seen.

The effect of all these cars strewn about is that of a used car lot. It is an eyesore. It degrades property values and the spirit of a residential

neighborhood, where families meet on the street to watch their children playing together.

The town has been deliberating over the placement of solar panels on private property. If solar panels – which are meant to ensure the viability of our planet – can challenge our aesthetics, then how much more of a challenge to our aesthetics and our values is accommodating the multiplication of motor vehicles?

Although I lack empirical evidence, I believe there is heavier motor traffic in Durham this year, increasing

- the time it takes to turn from a side street (such as Cowell) into the flow of traffic on main roads;
- congestion at more times throughout the day, from the West End roundabout to 108N, and along Madbury and Pettee Brook;
- cars frequently pulling out from a parking spot or changing lanes without signaling or checking;
- and increasing speed of cars approaching crosswalks, endangering pedestrian (such as school children!!) safety.

Please do not allow an increase in the number of motor vehicles permitted on a residential parcel. Please do not facilitate an increase in the number of cars in Durham's dense living and business spaces.

Thank you,
Susan Richman
16 Cowell Drive
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