

*Glendowlyn F. Howard
5 Bayview Rd
Durham, NH 03824*

December 9, 2019

To: Town of Durham Planning Board

Re: Church Hill Parking Lot Proposal by 'Colonial Durham'

Dear Members of the Planning Board,

I am writing to once again express my concerns about the proposed redevelopment of the Mill Plaza proposed by 'Colonial Durham', and specifically about the parking lot proposal. I know that several Durham town residents (Joshua Meyrowitz, etc) will provide you with all of the technical, code related reasons why this proposal should not be approved. It suffices to say that I concur with all of these technical reasons for why these two proposals should not be approved and I will spend my time talking about reality.

The reality is that the town of Durham has allowed itself to get into a very precarious position with regard to remote developers who are being allowed to run rickshaw over the town and in doing so they are looking to destroy what is left of the town center. The proposal to further remove green space, and specifically mature trees, from the plaza property and to put noisy, smelly, hazardous waste leaking and light polluting cars in that space is beyond ridiculous. Not only will this proposal further reduce the limited amount of green space that we have left in the town center, but it will also very negatively impact surrounding and nearby residential neighborhoods just because of its elevation and proximity to those areas. Sure, you can suggest that they erect some ugly highway barrier type structures to mitigate some of these concerns but is that really what the town had in mind when it created a vision for Durham?

While I believe very strongly that these proposals do not meet the Town of Durham's planning or zoning requirements I would mostly implore on you to use common sense in reviewing these proposals and ask yourself a few questions:

- What will Durham really be like once this nightmare is completed?
- Will any town people benefit from or want to use this new plaza as proposed?
- How can we do better for everyone concerned?

I would request that you not grant the conditional use permits that are required for these projects to go through.

Regards,

Glendowlyn F. Howard