

From: [Carroll, John](#)
To: [Jen Berry](#)
Cc: [Karen Edwards](#)
Subject: A Large New Parking Lot on Church Hill
Date: Sunday, November 10, 2019 10:00:24 PM

Jen,

Please Forward to the Town Council, the Planning Board, the HDC, and the Town Conservation Commission and the EDC.

A Large New Parking Lot on Church Hill: FOUR LARGE QUESTIONS for the Town Council, Planning Board, Historic District Commission (HDC), Town Conservation Commission and Economic Development Committee (EDC)

There are at least four large questions which must be answered relative to a new proposal to construct a large new parking lot on Church Hill:

1. Does the enabling of a large number of new parking spaces to serve many more cars in Durham fit with Durham's well advertised Sustainability Goals? If so, how? This is a question for the Town Council to start, relative to its own Sustainability Goals, as shared by all town committees, commissions and boards.
2. Since this proposed parking lot would be explicitly designed not to serve any existing parking needs but rather to host an entirely new population of vehicles not now in Durham, as dictated by the Hannaford's letter to the Planning Board, and thereby enable a new population of additional students to live downtown (this new parking lot essentially being the key to the construction of Mill Plaza student housing), therefore does the enabling of such significant new numbers of students downtown in the Durham Business District jive with the already substantial numbers of students downtown, thus defeating the goals of diverse and new and varied business enterprise downtown. This is a question for the Town Council, for the Planning Board, and perhaps as well for the Economic Development Committee (EDC).
3. Does the construction and operation of a large parking lot in what is now a two acre forest compliment or oppose the purposes and responsibilities of the Durham Historic District? (It is not the clearing of the land of trees which is at issue, for the clearing of that forest to create animal pasture would be in keeping with the Historic District, but is a constructed parking lot in any way in keeping with the role of the Historic District?) This is a question for the Historic District Commission (HDC), to start.
4. Does the considerable quantity of water running off a hard-surfaced slope replacing a naturally absorptive and currently forested surface exacerbate flooding of College Brook and

thereby endanger the property values along and near College Brook at both Mill Plaza and vicinity. along Chesley Drive and, as well, the homes downstream along Mill Pond Road to the College Brook's outlet at the Oyster River? And is this change in keeping with the aforementioned stated Town Goals relative to Sustainability and Climate Change? This is a question for the Town Conservation Commission, to start.

Sincerely,

John E. Carroll

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