

**From:** Carroll, John [<mailto:John.Carroll@unh.edu>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 20, 2019 11:30 AM

**To:** Michael Behrendt

**Subject:** Fw: Thoreau Quote

TO: Durham Planning Board

FROM: John E. Carroll, 54 Canney Road

Many if not most Durham residents were unaware until now of a two acre area of forest hidden in the midst of the downtown Durham business district, land currently owned by respected Durham developer Peter Murphy. (The parcel is immediately behind the historic Red Tower and adjacent to the Durham Community Church.) This is the last remaining such wildland parcel in the middle of Durham, and has been suggested for conversion to a parking lot, largely for tenants of Mill Plaza, if such is developed. Durham residents Jean and Mark McPeak, in a recent letter to Town Administrator Selig, provide reasons why we perhaps should be thinking about the conservation advantages of this parcel. They quote below from the diaries of Henry David Thoreau about such a parcel in a town. (See below.)

Given Durham's very clear and strong Town Council goals of sustainability in the light of the climate crisis, storm water run-off, greenspace, etc., a policy to which all town entities (the Council, the Planning Board, and all other town boards, commissions and committees) are

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required to adhere, should not the town consider acquiring or encouraging the acquisition of this remaining two acres for conservation and sustainability consideration? And should not the town, including the Planning Board, reject the idea of creating a new parking lot, thereby encouraging many more vehicles than now exist in town, in direct contradiction to any idea or concept of sustainability?

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From: Mark McPeak Date: Friday, November 8, 2019 at 8:51 AM To: Todd Selig Subject: A Voice from the Past! Todd, the plan for the further ripping up of the acreage in the Plaza for the parking area made me remember this entry from the Diaries of Henry David Thoreau from Jan. 30th, 1861: 'What are the natural features which make a township handsome? A river, with its waterfalls and meadows or lake, a hill, a cliff or individual rocks, a forest, and ancient trees standing singly. Such things are beautiful; they have a high use which dollars and cents never represent. If the inhabitants of a town are wise, they will seek to preserve these things, though at considerable expense; for such things educate far more than any hired teachers or preachers, or any at present recognized system of education.' Please be vigilant; we hope the Planning Board carefully considers the future. Jean and Mark McPeak, Durham residents.