

10 Burnham Ave  
Durham, NH

January 5, 2020

Dear Mr. Behrendt,

It saddens me that a parking lot on Church Hill is being seriously considered. I feel so fortunate that a walk from our house into town includes going “over the river and through the woods.” It’s like a mini-vacation. Seeing a parking lot when I’m still in the woods, as opposed to after I’ve emerged and turned the corner on the path to the plaza, would really damage how I feel about living near town.

I also don’t understand the purpose of the parking lot. In an age where people are reluctant to walk a block or two, I don’t see who will be using the lot. It’s not that close to anything in Durham. Are people going to park there and walk downtown to shops??

If it passes, I feel particularly bad for people who would be living right next to it. The noise, smell, and absence of trees is not why they paid the price they did for those houses. Would you want a parking lot next to your house?

I don’t understand how it fits the current Conditional Use laws as far as increased noise and light go.

I don’t understand how a town as concerned about the environment and proud of being green can be considering razing a beautiful patch of woods near a beautiful little brook...for what reason?

I just saw recently how Durham received a good financial rating, so it doesn’t seem to be about money. The parking isn’t convenient for anyone that I’m aware of. I really don’t see either the benefit to the town or the legality of the project.

Please don’t allow this project to continue.  
Thank you so much for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Maura Slavin  
10 Burnham Ave