

August 24, 2020


To: Todd Selig and Members of Town Council and Planning Board:

I am writing concerning the Planning Board Public Hearing this Wednesday to discuss proposed changes to the Zoning Regulations in the Central Business District.

Since completing my term on the town council, I have continued to stay connected with town affairs through the Friday updates. The last two updates have contained links to proposed town initiated zoning changes which could significantly impact the nature of the Central Business District. These proposals were recommended by a town appointed working group without input from the citizenry.

This is not an application from an outside agency, but a town initiated change which should have a full public hearing. Covid-19 has made a significant impact on many town functions and the population as a whole. A proposal such as this which could forever change the character of the CBD needs the full attention of all Durham residents, which is simply not possible now. Zooming doesn't work the same as an open hearing.

I urge you to delay the upcoming discussion on the zoning issues until full town participation is possible.

Sincerely,   
Alan Hugh Bennett, MD

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Town of Durham  
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Administration Office