

**From:** [Janice Aviza](#)  
**To:** [Karen Edwards](#)  
**Cc:** [Rick Taintor](#)  
**Subject:** Citizen Ltr to Planning Board - TOOMURFS  
**Date:** Sunday, January 24, 2021 2:36:53 PM

---

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Planning Board:

I write regarding the proposal before you now for the Toomurfs parking lot.

A comprehensive, realistic traffic study is imperative, relative to the proposed entrance to this lot. Consider that there is another parking lot, almost directly across from this proposed new lot on Main Street. Consider cars coming out of the proposed lot, while cars are coming from the OTHER lot which is almost directly across the street. Add in heavy morning traffic coming over the hill from Newmarket and Dover towards campus. It's not unrealistic to think that serious accidents could happen at that spot, with possible bodily harm.

I well remember when those student rental buildings were proposed. The town officials at the time were fully cognizant of the absence of parking in the plans. The sentiment then was that closeness to campus and town would promote walkability, bicycling and bus use. So why now backfill on that concept? -- (literally and figuratively) --by cramming an incongruous parking lot into the downtown, --on the very edge of the historic district. Actually, partly IN the district.

Regarding the unsightly back side of this project (up close to the also unsightly proposed backside of the neighboring plaza project): In various proposals previously before town boards, there has always been great sensitivity to the "Gateway" to Durham.

Well, here's another Gateway-to-be that deserves consideration:-- As we know, Durham residents are highly enthused about the installation of the Kenny Rotner pedestrian bridge. This will be a gateway for pedestrians who traverse that bridge, will probably walk down Thompson Lane, cross Faculty Road, and walk through the cherished wooded pathway, as they head toward the plaza and downtown.

What will greet them as they emerge from the path? Durham's own *Masada*.

--A pair of incongruous, unsightly twenty-five foot walls which, let's not ignore, could easily be a dangerous attraction for young, imaginative people. A fall from those heights could be fatal. I am reminded of the sign on the wall in the Triage Nurse's office at UNH: "It seemed like a good idea at the time!"

I simply cannot understand how the Murphy parking mesa, given the overwhelming negatives at both the front and back, could in any way be good for Durham.

Thank you for reading,

Janice Aviza  
2 Garden Lane, Durham