

From: [Comcast](#)
To: [Michael Behrendt](#); [Karen Edwards](#)
Subject: Re: Church Hill Parking Proposal
Date: Friday, May 06, 2022 8:42:44 AM

Dear Michael and Karen, please use this corrected email, where I corrected to BMP acronym.
Thx much.

Dear Michael and Karen, I understand that the public might be able to speak on the next PB meeting related to the uses requiring approval for the Church Hill Parking proposal. I will be out of town and would appreciate very much my thoughts being shared. I imagine most of my arguments have been addressed by others, but I still would like to share why I believe this proposal is a terrible idea for Durham.

First, and foremost, Durham claims to be concerned about climate change and the impacts this is having to our environment. I do not doubt this assertion. I certainly heard it time and again in regard to the Mill Pond and Dam. We know bad practices in the past, both within the town and with UNH lead to the demise of the Pond. And the consultants made it very clear that Nitrogen loading to our water bodies and the Great Bay have had untold consequences. If we are really concerned about our environment and the impacts we have caused, then this proposal should be a fairly simple matter to deliberate. Either we are green for the environment, or we are green for dollars. It's really as simple as that. The Town cannot selectively in good faith decide what is good for our environment, or at the very least should not.

I imagine the developers will propose a wide variety of solutions to mitigate the complete destruction of this forested area, but the reality is given the proximity to water bodies that are already severely impaired, there is no logical argument that can permit a use that is better for this area, than its current use as a forest. I doubt any man-made BMP will ever top Mother Nature's BMP's, it's a ludicrous exercise in futility to suggest otherwise in my humble opinion.

Not to belabor the Mill Pond decision and the Town's stated position that removing the dam is good for our environment, but the Town should be forward thinking of potential legal impacts of inconsistent environmental positions. If the dam decision ever gets litigated by impacted residents, I would have to seriously question if a decision to approve this proposal would bolster resident's arguments regarding the Town's selective stance on protecting the Oyster River and Great Bay. Something to consider in the scheme of things.

In closing I am sure someone has made the reference to Joni Mitchell's 70's classic Big Yellow Taxi, but at the risk of repeating, this is a classic

example of paving paradise to put up a parking lot. I just hope our Planning Board, in this case, knows what we got before it's gone.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Hiller
6 Laurel Lane