

John Mince  
23 Faculty Road  
Durham, NH 03824  
jmince6@outlook.com  
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Town of Durham, NH  
Durham Planning Board  
Durham, NH 03824

Dear Members of the Durham Town Planning Board,

I write you at this time to ask that you *reject* the Toomerfs proposal to build a parking lot on Church Hill. I also want to thank you for your work and commitment to our town.

The Toomerfs proposal fails Conditional Use criteria: fails to follow the reasonable land fill requirements of the Town, fails to maintain the last carbon sequestering urban forest remaining amongst the buildings in and around Main Street, fails to uphold the CU criteria to limit damage to abutters, and fails in so many other ways that you have now received a great number of opposing responses from our Durham community. (Please note Robin Mower's letter of July 8, 2022 regarding lack of PB discussion on key Conditional Use criteria. I agree with everything in her letter.)

I am only one resident, but I have read and re-read the letters you have received on this issue, asking, pleading, and sometimes demanding, that you reject the Toomerfs proposal.

Even if there may be some financial gain in regards to tax revenue, does it not seem clear that we who have written the letters, spoken at your meetings, and organized our responses against the proposal are the tax payers that keep Durham Town running? We are among the most committed of residents.

Are you willing to accept the resulting bitter disappointment that so many residents will likely feel if you allow this proposal to go through? You have received letters from decent, well-intended people who love this town, who chose this town over others to live in, raise families in, and who indeed practice their faith in.

There is no threat implied in any of the foregoing paragraphs, but a simple summing up of the work, the heart, the depth of feeling, that must now be clear and apparent to you. Were this opposition just a handful of folks with a limited agenda, that would be one thing. But this opposition represents a major intersection of the Town's residents, most of whom will not be directly affected if the proposal were passed. That must tell you something about the sincerity, the work that's been put in individually, the letters and warnings written by professional environmentalists and professors against the proposal. This is not a group of "up starts" who oppose any new idea. This is a serious minded group with great heart and commitment to the Town of Durham. Opposing the proposal is a genuine work of love.

I sincerely hope that you allow all of the many letters and statements to move you. We trust you to make the right decision for the above reasons and more. Please Reject this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration,  
John Mince