

## **Karen Edwards**

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**From:** Michael Behrendt  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 5:59 PM  
**Subject:** Main Street #19 - Flat as a pancake / Site Leafed in Now - email from Josh Meyrowitz

To the Planning Board,  
Please see the email from Josh Meyrowitz below.

**Michael Behrendt**  
Durham Town Planner  
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**From:** Joshua Meyrowitz [mailto:prof.joshua.meyrowitz@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 5:08 PM  
**To:** Michael Behrendt  
**Subject:** Flat as a pancake / Site Leafed in Now Re: Main Street #19 - aerial photo with (old) plan

Michael,

Thank you for including me in this, and for suggesting that the upcoming site walk start on Chesley Drive.

As I critiqued on May 12, flat-as-a-pancake images (such as the one just sent) distort what the mass proposed would look like from abutting properties, the Chesley Marsh, and the College Brook bridge so popular with the entire neighborhood. The topography so cherished on Church Hill, as a HILL, is not yet displayed as it would be transformed by such a plan. That's essential evaluative material. The neighbors would all appreciate your pressing again for better imagery from all the sides and elevation drawings from Main Street to Chesley to Faculty Rd and so on. Even after months and months with the old plan, those essential images and measurement details were missing. Now, there's a chance to address that sooner/ Such imagery, even if rough, would indeed help at the site walk, so that one could imagine what's proposed in context.

Ironically, of course, had the Dec 2 2020 site walk started at (or included the view from) Chesley Drive (also looking from rear of Mill Plaza) -- as was requested at the time -- the attendees could have grasped the scale of the proposal in visual and topographic context --

**because the leaves were off the trees.** One could see through the bare trees in December from Mill Plaza and from Chesley Drive (the street itself, not the Chesley Marsh path) the whole expanse: the stone wall and the Anderen and Urso houses.. Now, the forest is prettier, but less transparent. Thus, one needs more mental energy not only to imagine the 11,000 cubic yards of fill, but also the missing trees and the bare limbs of those few to be spared.

In any case, the abutting Andersens and the Ursos both suggest (and invite) that after viewing from Mill Plaza and the Chesley path, the site walkers walk up the Andersen driveway to the boundary stone wall and then around that up to the adjoining Urso home and backyard, which now look out and down at a forest and would be looking at something quite different if this proposal is approved.

Best, Joshua

*Joshua Meyrowitz, Ph.D.  
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<https://unh.academia.edu/JoshuaMeyrowitz>  
NOTE: I rarely check "Messenger" or Facebook*

On Mon, May 24, 2021 at 4:20 PM Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us> wrote:

To the Planning Board,

Here is an image that was presented to the board from October 2018 (the old plan) that shows the basic plan on an aerial photo. An updated version will be submitted soon.

**Michael Behrendt**

Durham Town Planner

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