

**From:** [Nancy Sandberg](#)  
**To:** [Karen Edwards](#)  
**Subject:** Sandberg Comments to Planning Board re 19-21 Main St.  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 27, 2021 10:14:07 AM

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Dear Karen,

Please forward my comments to the Planning Board.

Thank you,  
Nancy

To: Planning Board Members  
From: Nancy Sandberg 15 Langley Rd.  
Re: Comments on 19-21 Main St. Red Tower Parking Lot

For over fifty years I have admired and loved this town and her engaged citizenry. Though I enjoy living three miles from town surrounded by fields and woods with a view to the Oyster River, I care deeply that my town center develops attractively to a human scale while respecting the natural landscape features of Pettee and College Brooks, Oyster River and Church Hill for all the benefits they impart to all who live nearby, work, and shop there. With so many complex proposals before the Planning Board and communications being difficult because of the pandemic, I fear townspeople are having trouble appreciating the potential impacts of these proposals on our town center.

For the forested slope on Church Hill this proposal eliminates 1.3 acres of mature forest that acts as a visual, aural, and aesthetic buffer and as green stormwater infrastructure protecting College Brook from flooding and from harmful water runoff to the Great Bay, in order to impose a football-sized, asphalt parking lot for 183 cars. It replaces that natural functioning environment with more than a thousand 10-wheeler truckloads of fill buttressed by a 25 ft. cement block wall dependent on plastic underground tanks to filter, hopefully?, hazardous runoff. The alteration of terrain that this project requires combined with the alteration of terrain for Mill Plaza has the potential to destroy Durham's natural landscape and therefore poses an unacceptable risks to our environment.

This project needs to be rejected for all of the above reasons and for its violation of Conditional Use Zoning #2 and #5. We must maintain the forested slopes of Church Hill that is so important as a buffer and natural filter of stormwater.