

**From:** [Robert Grant](#)  
**To:** [Karen Edwards](#); [Michael Behrendt](#)  
**Subject:** Planning Board re. Church Hill Woods (19-21 Main)  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 3:43:49 PM

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Dear PB Board Members;

I believe it my responsibility as a Durham native to question your thought process regarding the destruction of the wooded area known as the Church Hill woods, and replace it with a parking lot. My Durham history is long and I have prided myself as a contributor to the wellbeing of my town. My grandparents opened Grant's Cafe in 1916 (later it became Young's, now Clark's), attended the Oyster River school district and UNH playing ice hockey. The town has changed dramatically from a hamlet of three thousand to a town of 15,000. The downtown as well has changed with hideous looking student housing up and down church hill, and the last bastion of the town business leaders following the passing of William Davison (Franklin Theater) and Jesse Gangwear (Town & Campus).

I don't know how many of the Board Members are Durham natives, but now you want to allow 2 additional out of staters to have a say in the development of Durham for their own personal gain. They are attempting to burden the town (and UNH) and its citizens with yet another parking lot despite Conditional-Use criteria that you have an obligation to defend. That the University has allowed every student the right to have a car on campus is not the town's concern, it's UNH's problem. FYI - when I was attending UNH only seniors were allowed to have cars on campus. UNH created this traffic chaos and pollution nightmare, the town is not responsible for fixing it by cutting down the church hill woods and making parking spaces. Light pollution, added traffic, the loss of a sound barrier to the Faculty neighborhood, is this the way to run a town. I'd say no, and again refer to current zoning and CU criteria. I am a proud member of Durham and have been since 1949, let's not destroy what is so precious to so many.

I look forward to hearing from you on this matter and to the only positive outcome possible under current zoning and town ordinances. Please do your jobs and vote NO to this preposterous plan from the Toomerfs.

Sincerely,

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