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Subject: For ConCom - MUST READ

On March 8th 74% of our town voted to side with our environment, protect the Oyster River and remove the Mill Pond Dam. During the associated conversations and deliberations, both sides of the Mill Pond Dam issue pointed to College Brook as an area that needs to be addressed. As both sides of the argument looked to address College Brook, that puts the concerned population at almost 100%. A unified concern which as you know is almost impossible in Durham.

We now have an opportunity to help College Brook, so nearly 100% of us should agree on the goals.

As you have heard from Dr. Wil Wolheim and others, the land that is associated with the proposed Church Hill Parking is critical to the health of College Brook and the Oyster River downstream.

We urge you to express clear facts and opinions to the Planning Board to prevent a short term project from causing long term environmental impact.

While we are not against the notion of the parking itself, the construction and operation of such needs to be done in a delicate manner:

- Deforestation will increase the volume and makeup of waters flowing downhill into College Brook. This is already an impaired water, so mitigation needs to be written into their plan. Designed grading, tree / vegetation preservation and purposeful plantings can mitigate some of the runoff volume and absorption challenges.
- Materials used should minimize impact, including avoiding ice melt products and using base / paving materials that help to mitigate runoff.
- The project needs to respect the riparian zones on all sides, during both construction and operation modes.

Please urge the Planning Board to require the appropriate materials, processes and design elements to minimize impacts to our Town and Watershed.

Thank You,

Scot Calitri