

From: [Susan Richman](#)
To: [Karen Edwards](#)
Subject: Communication to Planning Board re: CU for parking mound
Date: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 10:09:36 AM

January 13, 2021

To the members of the Planning Board, Town of Durham:

I wish to add my voice to those deeply concerned about the 180-car "parking mound" on Church Hill.

I live at 16 Cowell Drive, and last year a grassy field behind Cowell Drive was replaced by a parking lot. This Church Hill plan seeks to raze another natural tract of land, now filled with grass and trees, and continue the process of minimizing urban green space in Durham, while adding to impervious surface in the heart of our town.

Our Master Plan states we want to "Reduce the trend of continued loss of forestland and other natural areas, and increase the quantity and quality of existing forest cover in developed areas." NR-33

Furthermore, run-off from this parking mound would end up in College Brook, and ultimately in our Great Bay watershed. Our Master Plan warns that "the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Planning Board, and the general public... [need to be aware] of the cumulative, negative impact of variances, special exceptions, and waivers on the Great Bay Estuary and its tributaries." NR-30

If these are our guiding principles, then we must adhere to them, and protect this urban greenspace and the watershed running through the center of town. If we ignore these principles, our "Master Plan" has no purpose or meaning.

Additionally, I urge you to heed the arguments made by others more familiar with procedures that should be followed in granting Conditional Use.

Please heed the compelling arguments made in the following communications:

Dennis Meadows, 12-20-2020;

Maura Slavin, 12-11-2020;

Nancy Lambert, 12-10-2020;

Katherine Morgan, 12-10-2020;

Robin Mower, 12-8-2020

Joshua Meyrowitz, 12-7-2020

My very great thanks for your consideration, and for your service to Durham.

Susan Richman

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