

From: Susan Richman
To: Karen Edwards
Subject: Communication to Planning Board
re: CU for parking mound
Date: Thursday, March 17, 2022

Trying to halt the effects of climate change will not happen with one magical gesture. It will require myriad actions, some sweeping, some seemingly miniscule.

The Durham Master Plan has set out ways that Durham intends to mitigate harmful climate change:

"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

"...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

With this Master Plan we determined how future actions should be governed. What is the cumulative effect of a new parking lot at 66 Main Street next to Peoples Bank, and another between Main Street and Cowell Drive? Is there no hope that the environmental tenets of the Master Plan can be followed?

I add my voice to those objecting to a "parking mound" on Church Hill. Run-off will end up in the Great Bay watershed. Homes adjacent to the mound will have their views, and possibly their property and personal safety, diminished. Fewer trees and more impervious surface will increase radiated heat and decrease carbon capture.

If the Master Plan contains our guiding principles, then we must adhere to them. 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. Please do not allow plans for this Church Hill parking mound to go forward.

Yours,

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