

From: [Michael Behrendt](#)
Subject: Dover Road #81 - email from Larry Esmonde
Date: Monday, November 6, 2023 10:15:30 AM

To the Planning Board,
Please see the email below.

Michael Behrendt

Durham Town Planner
8 Newmarket Road
Durham, NH 03824
(603) 868-8064

From: Larry Esmonde <dotdotlar@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 4, 2023 4:09 PM
To: Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>
Cc: jennifer@artsinreach.org
Subject: Conditional use application submitted by Arts In Reach (AIR)

You don't often get email from dotdotlar@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To:
Mr. Michael Behrendt
Durham Town Planner
8 Newmarket Road
Durham, NH 03824

Dear Mr. Behrendt,

I am writing as a member of the Seacoast community in support of the conditional use application submitted by Arts In Reach (AIR) for the use of 81 Dover Road as a Community Center.

I live at 4 Stumpfield Road in Kensington, NH, and am a parent and supporter of AIR and its mission to support the healthy development and well-being of young people in our community.

Two years ago, my own child was in a challenging place. At a gathering in Portsmouth in October 2021, we first encountered the AIR organization and people. After my child began to participate in AIR programs and I noticed them steadily becoming a more confident and happier person. Since, their friendships have grown and their network of support increased -

both within the AIR community that they met and bonded with, and outside of it. I see a clear delineation between the child I parented before AIR was in our lives and the child since. I fully believe that AIR has been a tremendously positive force in my child's life.

I believe that this type of story repeats with the children who join AIR programs. The results of AIR's impact on a vulnerable population of adolescents over the past 26 years is remarkable -- no other organization in the Seacoast area offers this type of evidence-based, and trauma-informed arts programming, and it is clear in these post-COVID days that these programs are extremely necessary.

I strongly encourage the Planning Board to approve this conditional use application and allow AIR to flourish in Durham and provide even greater benefit to the Durham area and Seacoast community as a whole. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Larry

Laurence Esmonde
4 Stumpfield Rd,
Kensington, NH 03833
(603) 997-6952
dotdotlar@gmail.com