

**From:** [Michael Behrendt](#)  
**Subject:** Dover Road #81 - email from Virginia Skevington  
**Date:** Thursday, November 2, 2023 2:09:40 PM

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To the Planning Board,  
Please see the email from Virginia Skevington below.

## Michael Behrendt

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

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**From:** Virginia Skevington <virginia@charteroakcm.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 2, 2023 1:12 PM  
**To:** Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>  
**Subject:** A Letter in Support of AIR

You don't often get email from [virginia@charteroakcm.com](mailto:virginia@charteroakcm.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Michael Behrendt  
Durham Town Planner  
8 Newmarket Road  
Durham, NH 03824

Dear Mr. Behrendt,

I am writing as a member of the Arts In Reach (AIR) Board of Directors in support of AIR's conditional use application, recently submitted for the use of 81 Dover Road, Durham as a Community Center. As a longtime supporter of AIR, Member of the Board, and the organization's former Executive Director, I have witnessed the incredible growth of the organization and long-term, poignant impacts AIR's mission and programming has on teens of our greater community.

Through year-round arts and mentoring programming, AIR supports the healthy development and well-being of young people in our community. Co founded by UNH graduate, Kristin Forselius in 1997, AIR's roots began in Durham. UNH arts professors and local representatives supported the mission from the start, and arts programming for teens was held on the UNH Campus, Durham Community Church and Durham Evangelical. Enrollment, interest and arts offerings quickly grew.

Twenty-six years after its founding, no other organization in our state offers the type of evidence-based, and trauma-informed arts programming that AIR does. Moreover, there has been no time in history when these programs were more necessary. The teen population of New Hampshire deserves a safe space, where they can form healthy relationships with peers and adults, take safe creative risks, and have a voice.

I strongly encourage the Planning Board to approve this application and allow AIR to establish its home base in Durham – a welcoming community with strong focus on the arts, health and intellectual pursuits. Allowing the organization to serve teens in a warm, familiar, beautiful space will forever impact AIR teens, staff, supporters and this entire community. Please help us bring AIR back to its Durham roots permanently.

Best regards,

Virginia



**Virginia Skevington**  
**Operations Manager**

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