

From: [Michael Behrendt](#)
Cc: [April Talon](#); [Audrey Cline](#); [Brendan O'Sullivan](#); [Michael Behrendt](#); [Richard Reine](#); [Todd Selig](#); [Tracey Cutler](#)
Subject: Riverwoods - email from Steven Fellows
Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 4:44:56 PM

To the Planning Board (and Energy Committee),
For your information.

Michael Behrendt

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

From: Steven Fellows <steven_fellows@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 3:29 AM
To: Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>
Subject: Planning Board meeting comment on RiverWoods Phase II

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

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To: The Durham Planning Board

I want to express my concern regarding the sustainability of the new facility proposed by RiverWoods. I and many other RiverWoods residents have been strong advocates for a new building that reflects a genuine commitment to environmental responsibility, particularly in light of the urgent need to address climate change.

The documents filed with the town show buildings that will be heated with natural gas, a fossil fuel that directly contributes to global warming. The proposed insulation and HVAC specifications appear to align with code requirements, though they fall short of high-efficiency or performance-optimized benchmarks.

Furthermore, these plans are directly out of step with the Town of Durham's own Climate Action Plan. That plan sets a clear and ambitious goal for new construction: to be 80% electric under the Moderate Reduction Forecast and 100% electric under the Strong Reduction Forecast. The reliance on a natural gas heating system for a major new facility is in direct opposition to these targets. RiverWoods' plans for this facility align with the Business As Usual Forecast.

This is a critical moment for the Town of Durham to uphold its climate commitments. Allowing this project to proceed as designed would be a step backward for our

community and a disservice to the residents who have been advocating for a sustainable future. I urge the Planning Board to require the developer to revise their plans to align with the town's climate goals and build a facility that truly lives up to the promise of being environmentally responsible.

Thank you,
Steven Fellows
Stone Quarry Dr.