

On 8/6/14, 4:50 PM, "Seth Fiermonti" <sethfiermonti@icloud.com> wrote:

>Hello,

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>My name is Seth Fiermonti and I have lived in Durham for 10 years. I
>have seen many changes over that time and I am really excited for the
>future of our community. My opinion is that the HDC is doing some great
>work with the approval and guidance of the new construction in town and
>when all the dust settles (literally), we will have some beautiful
>properties and services we can all enjoy.

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>With that being said, I want to strongly urge that the HDC approve or at
>least be willing to work with the developer on the old town hall lot to
>build a drug store with a drive through. No doubt the bright minds on
>the HDC can come up with a compromising and aesthetically pleasing
>concept for this lot. I am in favor of tearing down this site due to the
>fact that it presents a financial burden to the town especially if a drug
>store use is not permitted. Quite simply, we cannot afford to maintain
>that property and losing out on this purchase and sales, I feel, will be
>detrimental to other conceptual projects that are coming to the table
>like the expansion of the Durham Marketplace, the added value of having a
>drive through for a pharmacy in town, and the use of this sale to support
>the new town hall construction.

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>If the HDC doesn't at least show some willingness to work with the
>developer, then it puts at jeopardy the new town hall budget and
>decreases the value of that property thereby diminishing interest in
>other developments.

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>In addition to the loss of income in its sale, the existing property
>would require much work to convert it to another use without starting
>anew. I have also been told that the furnace routinely breaks causing
>smoke to fill the building and there is asbestos in the walls.

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>Finally, there is nothing historically significant about these common
>house structures other than the year they were built. Nothing on the
>interior was preserved from the 1970s remodel which gutted the inside of

>both buildings and the area surrounding it is not in a 'neighborhood'
>with other lots of the same structure or time period.

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>Please consider approving the drug store use case with the developer.

>There is a lot at stake here and the HDC should take a holistic approach

>to this project versus being obtuse in thinking about one structure and

>trying to preserve something just for the sake of preserving.

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>Thanks for listening!

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>Seth Fiermonti