



## Town of Durham, NH

8 Newmarket Road  
Durham, NH 03824  
[www.ci.durham.nh.us](http://www.ci.durham.nh.us)

Re: Friend Forever Project

December 14, 2016

To the Planning Board,

The Economic Development Department for the Town of Durham supports the proposed project of the Friends Forever organization, which is coming before you shortly. This organization has tirelessly worked for world peace for more than thirty years and we are honored that they have chosen Durham for their home campus.

In case you are wondering what does this nonprofit organization have to do with economic development, please consider the following. Economic Development is not just about money, it is equally important, or more so about enrichment and quality of life. Organizations like Friends Forever work tirelessly to make our world more peaceful and help diverse people learn to live in harmony. People from all over the world visit our town and experience profound emotional and intellectual growth and insights. They carry these memories back to their homes to share with others. This enriches not only the lives of the direct participants, but also of the Friends Forever Project's local volunteers and our community at large.

Further, the property is classified as a Bed and Breakfast, providing additional economic value to the community again through providing shelter for visitors, and additional local spending as more people visit our town, eat in our restaurants, and frequent our retail and cultural facilities.

I add my voice to supporting their plans for expansion for the amazing work the Friends Forever Project performs.

Best regards,

Mary Ellen Humphrey  
Economic Development Director