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Town of Durham

AUG 21 2017

Planning, Assessing
and Zoning

August 17, 2017

Planning Board
Town of Durham
8 Newmarket Road
Durham, N.H. 03824

Re: Riverwoods Site Plan/Conditional Use Permit/Boundary Line Adjustment

Dear Planning Board Members,

I am writing in a multifaceted role, as a 23 year resident of Durham and an employee of Riverwoods Exeter and the daughter-in-law of a former RiverWoods Exeter resident. I will be out of town and unable to attend the public hearing on August 23rd but would like to share my perspective on this project.

As a resident of Durham: Recent construction in Durham has mostly been for student housing, I feel it not only appropriate but a grand idea to encourage people with more life experience to join our community. Many of Durham's residents of this age group move out once their families have grown. This is an opportunity to grow that demographic which has always been, and will remain, engaged, involved and invested in "their" town. As we have seen over the years, the University tries very hard to instill the "It's Where U Live" spirit in the students to help enrich the community and strengthen the Town/Gown bonds. This spirit is characteristic of the RiverWoods generation and will not require encouragement. The residents that choose to live in a place like RiverWoods are very active and involved in their community from my experience, RiverWoods residents are fully engaged in volunteering, attending events, becoming part of the town governance and continually seek out opportunities to engage in and enhance their community. The RiverWoods community would be an asset to Durham.

As a RiverWoods employee: I see the care and thoughtfulness that is put into the design, construction and maintenance of the RiverWoods buildings and grounds. I witness the daily collaborative spirit that invites all stakeholders input when growing or making changes. Respect for and support of the environment is exhibited by staff and residents, typically working in tandem. Also, the RiverWoods culture is one of support and respect that I had not experienced before in my many years in the workforce.

And finally as the daughter-in-law of a former RiverWoods resident: I can speak personally to the care that was given and the excellent quality of life that my father-in-law experienced while living at RiverWoods. The peace of mind that we, his family experience because of the high standards that RiverWoods sets and attains was absolute.

In closing, I think you have already witnessed the willingness of RiverWoods management and design team to work together on a project that they and Durham will take pride in. This is not a one-time occurrence this is how I have experienced RiverWoods operates at all levels. They live by their core values and take great care to be conscientious community members. Please approve this Site Plan, Conditional Use Permit and Boundary Line Adjustment and help make RiverWoods part of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy C. Smath". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "N".

Nancy Smath
89 Packers Falls Road
Durham, NH 03833