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Town of Durham

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Planning, Assessing
and Zoning

17 Oct 2017

Steven Fellows
426 Bay Rd.
Durham, NH 03824

To the Durham Town Council:

I am writing to express in support of the proposed RiverWoods development project in Durham.

My mother has been a resident of RiverWoods in Exeter for 22 years (20 years in independent living and 2 years in the skilled nursing facility) so I am quite familiar with the organization and I know many of the residents. RiverWoods is a first-class operation in all aspects – the remarkable facilities, the staff and the services it provides. I am pleased with the attention and care my mother has received there especially now that she is in her ninth decade.

I have spoken with many current and past residents of Durham who would like to remain in or return to Durham when they are no longer able to maintain their own home. They believe their current options are limited and they would prefer the living arrangement RiverWoods is offering.

RiverWoods would be an asset to Durham as it is to Exeter where the residents are active volunteers in the community, provide funding to many non-profit organizations and provide cultural enrichment. Most RiverWoods residents do not seclude themselves in their apartments but are dynamic members of the community.

I believe the facility will be appealing and it will enhance the eastern gateway as it will be appropriately landscaped and well maintained as it is in Exeter. What would we prefer for an area that is zoned as commercial?

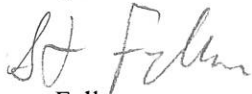
As far as the PILOT is concerned I have two points.

Both parties to the negotiations are going to act in their own self-interest. This is to be expected. But for some council members to assume that the RiverWoods negotiators are entering into the negotiations with the attitude that they are the professionals and that the town council members are mere bumpkins whom they can bamboozle is not productive and will only foment ill will.

The fee residents must pay may lead one to conclude that the residents are wealthy but it should be noted that the fee covers much more than an apartment including long-term health insurance, health care, heat, electricity, phone, cable, internet access, some transportation, meals, security, a fitness center and many amenities. Residents have few other significant necessary expenses. I believe the typical RiverWoods resident is comparable to the typical Durham tax payer in the same demographic. After all, Durham homes are not shabby hovels.

I know the town council members have a difficult task in balancing the needs and desires of the residents and I thank you for your diligence, time and effort. I believe you are sincerely trying to do your best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. Fellows".

Steven Fellows

Cc: Durham Planning Board