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Durham Planning Board
8 Newmarket Rd.
Durham, NH 03824

RE: ADA compliant ramp

Dear Planning Board Members:

As one of the architects on the Mill Plaza Study Committee, I am very familiar with the Mill Plaza site, as well as with ADA-compliant designs.

I was surprised to hear that the popular (though admittedly non-ADA-compliant) paved path from the Plaza to Main Street and the Post Office might be replaced with a switchback staircase. A staircase, of course, is *really* not ADA-compliant, and such a change would make the Plaza a much less pedestrian-friendly site.

Therefore, I have worked on a rough design of an ADA-compliant pathway, which I consider quite plausible.

As indicated in the attached sketch, one would need approximately 120 feet of the railed ramp at 1:12 (shown), or about 200 feet with no railing. CDA's engineers at Tighe & Bond are certainly capable of refining and implementing the design. Or my services would be available. Ideally, an alignment that would allow bicycling would be great.

Either design (with or without railing) might require easements or lot line adjustments with abutters, but the Town should be able to facilitate that, given the major value-added to the Plaza, the abutters, the shoppers of the Plaza, and the residents of Durham overall.

Could you please post this letter as expert input on the main Mill Plaza CUP Application site as well as forward it to Planning Board members.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nick Isaak, AIA
Principal

