

November 29, 2010

To Karen Edwards and Rick Taintor for distribution to the Planning Board

Planning Board  
9 Newmarket Road  
Durham, NH 03824

Re: Mill Plaza Redevelopment

Dear Members of the Board:

After watching the Mill Plaza site plan conversation for years and speaking a few times, I have one fundamental concern which I think affects everything the Planning Board does. The Board does not seem to put much stock in public comment.

In the description of the Planning Board duties in the Master Plan it says that the Planning Board "shall make findings of fact, based on the evidence presented by the applicant, Town staff, and the public . . ."

The Planning Board is required to pay attention to public comment and the petition signed by a record number of names that details how the plan does not comply with our zoning rules because of negative environmental and societal impact.

Why would one Planning Board say on October 20 this year that public input should be ignored because it is factually inaccurate? Citizens have written wonderfully detailed letters to explain the negative impact the proposed development would have on the economy, public safety, environment, and social life of the town.

I would love to dismiss the comments of the unelected Planning Board, but your power and your ability to negatively affect the future of the town is immense. According to the laws of the town the community must be heard.

Thank you for your attention,  
Carol Birch