

From: [Ellen Karelitz](#)
To: [Karen Edwards](#); [Durham Town Council](#); rtraintor@ci.durham.nh.us
Subject: Plaza Project
Date: Monday, February 07, 2022 11:03:17 AM

I have been a Durham resident for over 25 years. During this time I have watched the town lose its diversified town center and businesses and slowly become an extension of the University campus with few options for tax paying residents to shop, eat, or engage in community activities without those activities being dominated by the priority of catering to the student population.

I attended the 2008 charrette and participated in generating the ideas in A New Village Center. However, those ideas have no standing in the current design for the Plaza. As many have pointed out; we do not need more student housing; we do not need to have a family neighborhood destroyed by what, Karen Weiss has defined "a party subculture"; we do not need more out of scale ugly buildings; we do not need further exploitation of our community by out of state developers only interested in making money.

What we do need is balance in our community. We need services and businesses we can **all** patronize and benefit from. We need green spaces for meeting and greeting. We need a town center to gather in that serves the needs of **everyone**. A place to host entertainment, buy healthy food that feeds families, and supports a social life that is inclusive.

The current plan offers none of this. Isn't it time that the owners of this property realize that their goal of another student housing ghetto is not what this community will allow?

Sincerely, Ellen Karelitz, 113 Madbury Rd.