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To: [Rick Taintor](#); [Karen Edwards](#)
Cc: [Todd Selig](#); [Durham Town Council](#)
Subject: Mill Plaza development
Date: Wednesday, October 21, 2020 6:37:13 AM

I have been following the work being done on redevelopment of the Mill Plaza. I want to reiterate, I oppose the removal of any more trees and green space from this area. The plaza and the bordering property up to Main Street impact the College Brook with run-off as has been shown by the flooding that repeatedly occurs; and the brook runs into the Oyster River which is part of the Great Bay Estuary. The impact is not just local.

As well, having some trees and buffering the neighborhood from the plaza is in character with the Master Plan, preservation of the rural character of the Town.

As it exist, the parking lot is too close to the brook and has a deleterious effect on the brook and the river. Since this is more than just a remodel, I would request the remedial drainage be part of the acceptable criteria to move forward and that the addition of any more hard scape (asphalt) be denied. This is in agreement with the work the town has been doing to prevent urban run-off from entering the estuary such as repairing the drainage systems and installing asphalt that allows drainage into the subsoil.

I believe the original idea of the plaza was to provide the Town with services and retail outlets that are necessary and beneficial for a thriving community. The current redevelopment plan simply is a ploy to take advantage of the rental market created by UNH.

A large development or redevelopment should provide some benefit for the people and area where it occurs and I do not see that in this plan. Any new improvements to the existing business real estate are a second thought or absent, such as the Hannaford property.

The tenants of NH zoning are health and safety but also that there be agreement with the character of the neighboring property and the Master Plan. I do not see evidence that this redevelopment is in character with the area, nor meets the central ideas of the Master Plan or affords for any additional benefit to citizens as proposed.

I would like the Planning Board and the Council to hold fast to requiring a better plan that has benefits for both the Town and the developer as a compromise solution.

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