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**To:** [Karen Edwards](#); [Rick Taintor](#); [sallyneedell@gmail.com](mailto:sallyneedell@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Mill Road Plaza  
**Date:** Monday, November 23, 2020 10:55:04 AM

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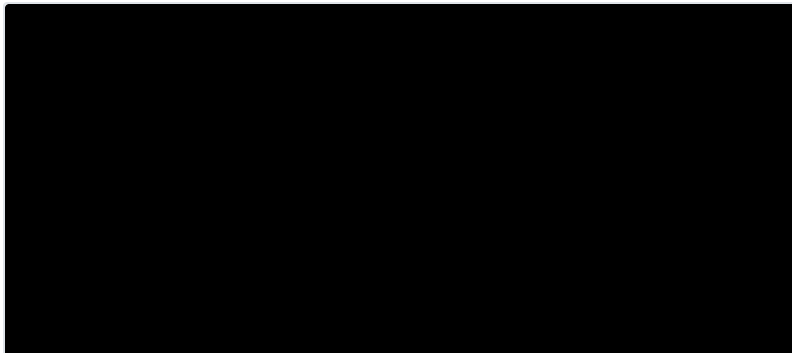
Dear Members of the Conservation Commission,

Thank you for all your efforts and hard work in preserving and protecting our natural resources here in Durham. I am writing to you today to lend support of what many of my fellow Durham residents have expressed in their concerns about protecting College Brook when it comes to The Mill Road Plaza redevelopment plan before you. I live at 3 Chesley Drive and the brook travels through my back yard.

There are many concerns involving College Brook that have been brought up, however in the interest of your time I will focus on the issues that affect me the most. The first would be the erosion of my property from flash flooding. During Friday's sight walk, it was learned that UNH is possibly the greater contributor of the salt and pollution of the brook. However, UNH does not have the data to support how it contributes to the flash flooding. It was mentioned that UNH has added settling ponds along College Brook to curb the flash flooding issues in recent years.

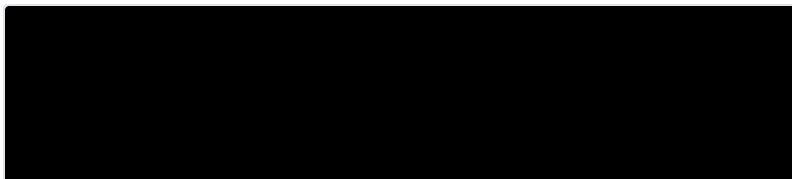
I took the opportunity of this morning's heavy rain to check out the flow of College Brook as it exits the culvert that runs from the back of the MUB to the Plaza. I was triggered when I looked out my back door and saw the rising water up to the sewer pipe that crosses College Brook in my back yard. Please see attached photo that was taken just before 9:00 this morning. I then went to see the flow exiting the culvert at Mill Rd at the entrance to the Mill Road Plaza. There are two culverts which exit at the Plaza entrance. One, which appears to be coming from UNH and one possibly coming from the Plaza and Mill Rd run off. The one coming from UNH was moving much slower than second. Which leads me to believe that the flash flooding may not be caused by the flow from UNH. I attempted some videos with my cell phone in a zip lock bag, so please forgive the quality. In the Plaza 1 video, the top culvert appears to be the one coming from UNH.

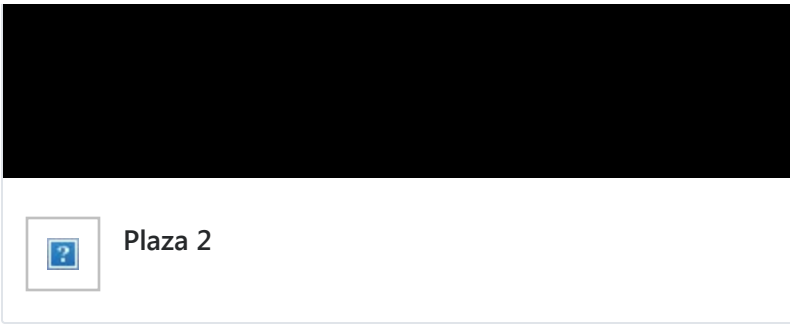
 [Plaza 1](#)



Plaza 1

 [Plaza 2](#)





With open candor, I must admit that I do not know for sure the sources of each of the culverts. What this does bring to light, as seen at the sight walk, that there appears to be more questions than answers when it comes to the issues involved with College Brook and perhaps some of those questions need to be answered definitively before moving forward.

Another question I have, came to the forefront of my mind during the sight walk on Friday. Colonial Durham strongly implied that nothing would be done to improve the site and the environmental damage the current Plaza is now causing, unless the plan they have before the Planning Board, was approved. So my question is, why hasn't Colonial Durham been held accountable for the current state of the site and what plans does the Town of Durham, The Conservation Committee or any other governing body have moving forward to correct it, regardless if the current plan is approved or not?

Thank you again for your hard work and time committed to protecting and improving our town.

Sandra Hebert,  
3 Chesley Drive