

TOWN OF DURHAM 8 NEWMARKET RD DURHAM, NH 03824-2898 603/868-8064 www.ci.durham.nh.us

April 28, 2021

## Proposed Rezoning of Area from Residence Coastal to Rural

Dear Durham Property Owner:

With an eye toward the future and providing for a more resilient community, the Durham Agricultural Commission is proposing a change in the zoning of a number of parcels along and near Piscataqua Road/Route 4, from Residence Coastal (RC) to Rural (R). The purpose of this proposal is to increase the opportunity for farming and local food production in a part of town with existing, active agricultural operations and strong potential for new farming activity, a goal of the Durham Master Plan.

A map of the parcels that would be rezoned under this proposal is shown on the reverse side and is also shown on the Town website here: <u>https://www.ci.durham.nh.us/boc\_agricultural</u>. The Agricultural Commission is holding an informational meeting on the rezoning proposal on <u>Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm</u>. The meeting will be held at the Durham Town Hall and virtually, with the public able to join the discussion in person or via Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted on the front of the Town's website at the upper left a week or so prior to the meeting.

You are being notified because you either own one or more of the parcels proposed to be rezoned or you own a lot in the area. The Residence Coastal and Rural districts are quite similar. The dimensional standards for the two zones (lot sizes, setbacks, etc.) are identical. The uses are very close with some differences, the biggest one being that the Rural district is more flexible in its allowance for agriculture.

We will explain the proposal and the precise differences between the two districts and answer any questions that you might have at the meeting. Also, please feel free to contact Town Planner Michael Behrendt at <u>mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us</u> or at (603) 868-8064 or Agricultural Commission Chair Theresa Walker at <u>theresawalker@comcast.net</u> with any questions.

The next step for the Agricultural Commission following the informational meeting will be to present the proposal to the Planning Board and the Town Council, both of which would hold public hearings prior to prospective adoption of the changes. The proposal could also be changed later by the board or the council. We hope that you can join us on May 10.

Sincerely,

Michael Behrendt Durham Town Planner

See the proposed map on the reverse side

