



TOWN OF DURHAM
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Town Planner's Review
Wednesday, September 8, 2021

- IX. **Public Hearing - Food Truck at Mill Plaza.** Site plan review for placement of a food truck in front of The Works in Mill Plaza. The proposed hours are Thursday – Saturday from 7:30 p.m. to 1:00 or 2:00 a.m. Ryan Ash and Nathaniel Wilson, applicants. Colonial Durham Associates, property owner. Central Business District. Map 5, Lot 1-1.
- I recommend that the board hold the public hearing and then decide whether to: 1) approve the application, 2) deny the application, or 3) continue the review and possibly include a site walk

Please note the following:

- The board discussed the application briefly at the August 25 meeting and decided to not have the application reviewed under the Minor Site process. The board accepted the application as complete and scheduled this public hearing.
- Please see my notes from the Technical Review Group meeting last Tuesday. Numerous issues were discussed.
- If the application is approved the board should determine several things: Where should the food truck be set up (in front of the building or in several parking spaces)? What should the hours of operation be? How should the truck be oriented? What conditions could be incorporated to optimally manage the operation?
- See the memorandum from Deputy Police Chief David Holmstock. The department is raising significant concerns with the proposal.
- It appears that this proposal would provide a benefit for UNH students (and possibly others) to find something to eat late at night when there are few if any other options available. All indications are that the applicants are sensitive to potential concerns and that they would seek to operate the small business in as responsible a manner as possible. The key questions for the board are: How likely is it that significant problems would arise in terms of noise, trash, people congregating, and other matters? Could these issues be managed and contained effectively? How much would the sound of voices travel to neighboring residences? How likely is it that virtually all customers would purchase their food and leave the site quietly to consume it in their residences? Is it appropriate to set up some kind of trial operation? Is it appropriate to provide for the operation to be terminated if problems arise?
- If the board has various unanswered questions, it would be useful to hold a site walk and continue the application to September 22.