

To: Durham Planning Board

From: Carol Birch, 17 Garden Lane

Date: December 6, 2022

Re: Housing Ordinance

Dear Members of the Planning Board,

I watched the Housing Public Hearing last Wednesday night. To be honest, I was aghast at what I learned the Housing Taskforce is proposing.

When my husband and I moved to Garden Lane 50 years ago, we thought we had a contract with the Town. We understood what our neighborhood and our town would look like. I felt like I understood what it would be like to live in Durham. While there have been small changes over the years, there has been nothing as drastic as what the committee is proposing! I feel like I have been walloped, like the rug has been pulled out from under me. After 7 years of angst with the Plaza (and that is not even settled yet) and now this? *What is the Town thinking?*

These changes are too drastic and have not been properly thought through. The impacts are way too great for a small group of people to decide upon. If these changes are to be seriously considered (and I hope they will NOT), there needs to be town-wide education process and community discussion. There needs to be a town-wide vote. But frankly, I hope the Planning Board comes to its senses. This is not the right direction for Durham!

Please record my vote as another in strong opposition to the proposed changes. These changes will only generate more density, not more affordable housing. They will bring more students back into the neighborhoods after the Town spent years trying to move them out. The proposed changes do not even create workforce housing—which I thought was the goal of the taskforce. These proposed changes are misguided.

I stand with others who have spoken out in opposition on November 30.