To the Planning Board (cc to Atty. Brunelle and the applicant), Please see my responses to Attorney Brunelle's comments below.

Michael Behrendt

Durham Town Planner 8 Newmarket Road Durham, NH 03824 (603) 868-8064

From: Suzanne Brunelle <<u>SBrunelle@devinemillimet.com</u>>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 11:58 AM
To: Michael Behrendt <<u>mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us</u>>
Subject: RE: Main Street #74 - responses to Attorney Brunelle *

Michael: Thank you for your continued attention to this matter.

1. The plans as submitted cannot be approved with the Potential New Shared Easement plan attached (last plan provided). The abutter does not agree with this proposal and the same should be removed from the submittal package.

I believe the applicant provided this sheet showing an option for modifying the existing easement pursuant to the revised site plan but if the abutter does not want this sheet included in the approved plan set then it seems fine to me for it to be removed.

2. I have attached copies of the two (2) easements in question and the 2018 subdivision plan. A review of all will show that the proposed building being squared off on the new site plan encroaches into the easement area. By our estimates, its 10 to 14 feet at the rear of the property. If you look at the hatching on the 2018 subdivision plan on the developer's property, that is where the new proposed squared off building will be located and the property encompasses part of the easement area at the rear of the property for access by the abutter. The hatching indicates no parking in order for access per the terms of the easement.

I don't understand this comment. There are two easements granted to the owners of the abutting lot, one for passage along a strip of land between the two lots and one for access to the rear of the abutting lot. The proposed plan keeps the passage between the two lots open, along the same dimension as the existing pavement, according to the documentation provided by the applicant. The rear is being reconfigured pursuant to the redevelopment of the site. Access to the rear of the abutting lot is being preserved though the layout is different pursuant to the redevelopment. While the configuration of the rear access is changing, of necessity with the redevelopment, the access appears to be comparable to, if not better than, the existing access. Regardless, the Planning Board does not have jurisdiction to determine compliance with private easements.

3. Finally, I attached our frontage analysis with regard to Ballard Street and the approval of the 2018 subdivision plan.

I do not believe that this assertion is valid. When the subject lot was subdivided from the larger lot that also contains the Aroma Joe's building, the remaining lot with the Aroma Joe's building was deemed to meet the requirement for having 50 feet of frontage on "a street right of way." My understanding is that Ballard Street was never discontinued so it remained as a street right of way (on paper only). The applicant for the 2-lot subdivision argued to the Planning Board that the Aroma Joe's lot therefore met the frontage requirement. It was a reasonable legal argument which the Planning Board accepted. Therefore, even though the Aroma Joe's lot does not have direct frontage on Main Street (other than the lower section which is 28.3 feet in length) it has frontage on Ballard Street, the paper street. Nothing regarding frontage is changing with this site plan. There is no actual street here within the Ballard Street right of way. The Town's small parking area is not a street. In removing the parking area and small driveway connecting with Main Street, the status of Ballard Street/the Ballard Street right of way is not changing in any fashion. It is and will remain a paper street.

- Related to this point, I should state the reasons, once again, that the Town staff strongly support removing this parking area, as follows:
- The parking area in front of the two lots is problematic. One must access the site from the rear from Pettee Brook Lane and drive along the strip between the two lots to reach the front parking spaces. This is very awkward and there is no easement to allow the public to use that private strip of land. I do not believe that many people know that this parking is available to the public unless they are specifically informed of it. Arguably, the use becomes somewhat "private."
- Related to the first reason, it is difficult to physically maneuver into these parking spaces. By removing the parking we will create a few on street parking spaces that are much more usable. The applicant is paying for this work and also for the installation of a loading zone on Main Street just before the 66 Maina Street parking lot. The applicant is doing this work in

exchange for the Town allowing them to use the Pettee Brook parking lot and a portion of the front park for construction.

- The Town will gain significant new park space extending the existing park at the corner of Pettee Brook Lane and Main Street.
- The current arrangement is at odds with best planning practice for a downtown. In a downtown, all parking should be located on street, behind buildings, or in garages. Parking lots located right on the street create unattractive dead space.

Thank you.

Suzanne Brunelle, Chair of the Real Estate Practice Group Devine, Millimet & Branch, P.A. 111 Amherst Street Manchester, NH 03101 p. 603-695-8570 f. 603-669-8547

Doc # 0015749 Oct 31, 2018 2:12 PM Book 4612 Page 0793 Page 1 of 2 Register of Deeds, Strafford County



DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION	٢	REAL ENTATE TRANSFER TAC
Thousar	nd * Hundred	40 Dollars
10/31/2018	ST845955	\$ *****40.00

EASEMENT DEED

NOW COMES Clark Properties, LLC, a New Hampshire Limited Liability Company with an address of 19 Dowling Drive, Middleton, New Hampshire, for consideration paid, grants to Town & Campus Inc., a New Hampshire Corporation with and address of 105 Perkins Road, Madbury, New Hampshire with Quitclaim Covenants, the following described easements:

An Easement to pass and repass for the purpose of restaurant related deliveries and trash removal and for the purposes of ingress and egress for the parking spaces at the back of the <u>building at Tax Map 2, Lot 14-1</u> over the northeasterly paved portion of a certain tract of parcel of land in the Town of Durham, County of Strafford and State of New Hampshire owned by the Grantor known as Tax Map 2, Lot 14-1-1, for the benefit of a certain tract or parcel of land in the Town of Durham, County of Strafford and State of New Hampshire owned by the Grantees known as Tax Map 2, Lot 14-1. Grantee agrees that it shall only pass and repass over said easement and shall not park or otherwise impede or block the easement area in any way.

An Easement to pass and repass on the paved driveway currently existing on the northsouth boundary of a certain tract of parcel of land in the Town of Durham, County of Strafford and State of New Hampshire owned by the Grantor known as Tax Map 2, Lot 14-1-1, for the benefit of a certain tract or parcel of land in the Town of Durham, County of Strafford and State of New Hampshire owned by the Grantees known as Tax Map 2, Lot 14-1. The parties shall share the cost of maintenance and repair of said driveway easement.

This instrument shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of Grantor and Grantees, and their respective heirs, successors and assigns and shall be covenants running with the land in perpetuity.

Meaning and intending to convey an easement over a portion of the premises conveyed to Grantor by deed recorded at the Strafford County Registry of Deeds at Book 4607, Page 835.

This is not homestead property of the Grantor.

This easement is subject to minimum transfer tax as no consideration has been paid.

WHEREFORE the Grantor has hereunto set his hand this 23^{cl} day of 0ctobec, 2018.

Manager. Douglas *C*la

Clark Properties, LLC

STATE OF NH COUNTY OF Strafford

October 23, 2018

Personally appeared the above-named Douglas Clark , known to me, or satisfactorily proven, to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he executed the same as his free act and deed.

Before me,

Justice of the Peace - Notary Public

My Commission Expires: SUSAN E. PREBLE Notary Public, State of New Hampshire My Commission Expires August 27, 2022

. series

Doc # 0015750 Oct 31, 2018 2:12 PM Book 4612 Page 0795 Page 1 of 2 Register of Deeds, Strafford County



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE				
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE ADMINISTRATION		REAL ESTATE TRANSFER TAX		
***** Thousa	ind * Hundred	d 40 Dollars		
0ATE 10/31/2018	ST845956	AMOUNT 5 \$ ******40.00		
	VOID IF ALTERED	1		

EASEMENT DEED

NOW COMES Town & Campus Inc., a New Hampshire Corporation with and address of 105 Perkins Road, Madbury, New Hampshire Clark Properties, LLC, a New Hampshire Limited Liability Company with an address of 19 Dowling Drive, Middleton, New Hampshire, for consideration paid, grants to Clark Properties, LLC, a New Hampshire Limited Liability Company with an address of 19 Dowling Drive, Middleton, New Hampshire, the following described easements:

An Easement to pass and repass on the paved driveway currently existing on the northsouth boundary of a certain tract of parcel of land in the Town of Durham, County of Strafford and State of New Hampshire owned by the Grantor known as Tax Map 2, Lot 14-1, for the benefit of a certain tract or parcel of land in the Town of Durham, County of Strafford and State of New Hampshire owned by the Grantees known as Tax Map 2, Lot 14-1. The parties shall equally share the cost of maintenance and repair of said driveway easement.

This instrument shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of Grantor and Grantees, and their respective heirs, successors and assigns and shall be covenants running with the land in perpetuity.

Meaning and intending to convey an easement over a portion of the premises conveyed to Grantor by deed recorded at the Strafford County Registry of Deeds at Book 4607, Page 835.

This is not homestead property of the Grantor.

This easement is subject to minimum transfer tax as no consideration has been paid.

WHEREFORE the Grantor has hereunto set his hand this $\frac{1}{16}$ day of October, 2018.

Jesse Gangwer, **Its** President Town & Campus, Inc.

STATE OF <u>NH</u> COUNTY OF <u>Strafford</u>

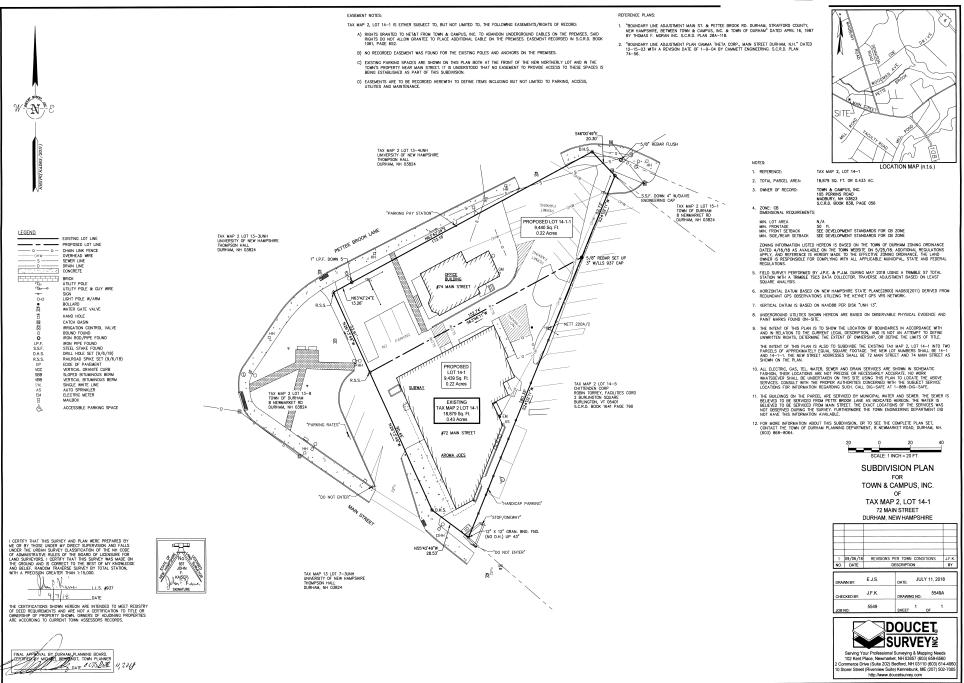
October 16, 2018

Personally appeared the above-named Jesse Gangwer, known to me, or satisfactorily proven, to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged that he executed the same as his free act and deed.

Before me,

Justice of the Peace – Notary Public My Commission Expires: SUSAN E. PREBLE SUSAN E. PREBLE SUSAN E. PREBLE O Notary Public, State of New Hampshree Notary Public, State of New Hampshree My Commission Expires August 24, 57

Doc # 0014708 Cet 11, 2018 3:07 PM C/H Plan 117-005 1 of 1 L-CHIP Register of Deeds, Strafford County STA12868



LOT FRONTAGE ANALYSIS

The proposed site plan can not be approved as presented due to the unlawful taking of 74 Main Street (Map 106 Lot 61) & 72 Main Street's (Map 106 Lot 59) frontage on Ballard Street. Currently each lot has frontage on the Town's right-of-way known as Ballard Street (72 Main Street enjoys 90.45 feet and 74 Main Street Map enjoys 52.61 foot on frontage). Additionally, 74 Main Street has 173.16 feet of frontage on Pettee Brook and 72 Main Street may have limited frontage on Main Street of 28.35 feet).

For decades, Ballard Street served a thorough way from Main Street crossing through Pettee Brook (formerly Rosemary Lane) & Garrison Ave ending it what appears to be a cul-de-sac. Most of Ballard Street was taken over by the University of New Hampshire; however, there was nothing found in the Town's records showing that it was discontinued in accordance with acceptable procedures outlined by NH state statutes and case law.

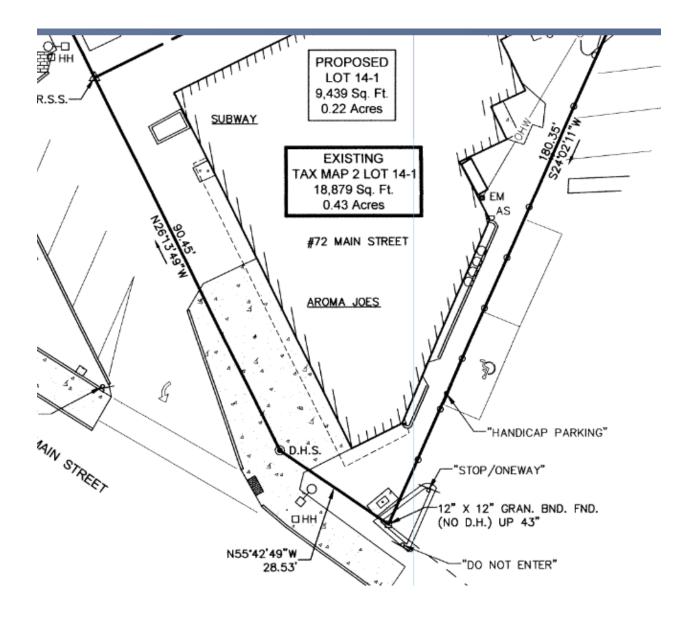
The Ballard Street frontage served 72 Main Street well and has been a vital part of its development and operations allowing for pick-up and deliveries from oversized tractor trailer trucks and served as an access point for customers and patrons alike. The discontinuance of Ballard Stret has not been demonstrated or determined.

The Town's records reveal that in 1989 the Town through an ordinance (#89-01) called for the discontinuance of vehicular traffic on Ballard Street, recognized as a Town's right-of-way, between Rosemary Lane and Main Street. This ordinance provided no mention of any discontinuance of Ballard Street. Although the 1989 actions of the Town are questionable, the Town voted to discontinue vehicular traffic but nothing was found to discontinue the road as that would require a separate process with notification requirements.

Ordinances	Name D	ate Passed
Passed by the Town Council in 1989	89-01 An Ordinance Calling For The Discontinuance Of Vehicular Traffic On Ballard Street Between Rosemary Lane And Mair Street	June 5

Further, in 2018, a subdivision plan was presented to the Town for its approval and at that time, each lot was required to have 50 feet of frontage on a street right-of-way. The subdivision plan was approved and properly recorded at the Strafford County Registry of Deeds as Plan No. P0117-0006. The approval of the subdivision plan required 50 feet of frontage for 72 Main Street. The only way to meet this requirement was with the frontage on Ballard Street. Without this frontage, the subdivision could not be approved as presented. The Town's zoning requires 50 feet of minimum lot frontage (See Section 175-54 TABLE OF DIMENSIONS require a minimum lot frontage in feet of 50 feet. *Lot Frontage* is defined as "A lot line dividing the lot from a street right-of-way"). It is not entirely clear whether the

28.53 feet of "frontage" is on Main Street. Even assuming it is, the frontage requirement could only be satisfied utilizing the frontage on Ballard Street. To approve the current site plan with the proposed reconfiguration of the area in front of 72 Main Street would create a lot with the less than the required frontage; thus creating a non-conforming lot and an unlawful taking of 72 Main Street's property rights.



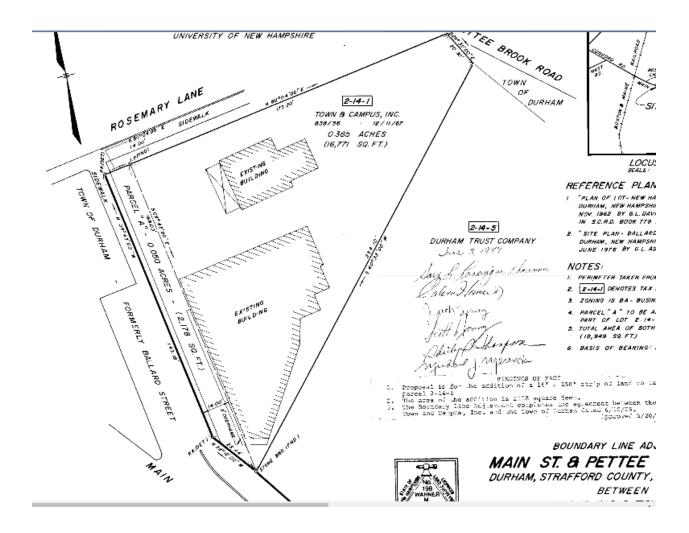
The approval of the original site plan was unlawful as it created a non-conforming lot in violation of the Town's regulations. The current plan does the same.

The following actions are necessary by the Planning Board:

1. Restoration of the Ballard Street lot frontage for 72 Main Street whether by a site plan amendment or revocation of the previously approved site plan; and/or

2. Denial of the current site plan amendment for the reasons set forth herein.

** The 1985 agreement complicates the situation. At that time, there was basically a land swap. The Town received land from Gangwer off of Beech Street and Gangwer received a 14 foot strip in front of his lot with a right to purchase the remaining land if the Town ever decided to sell it. This is where it is confusing. The land in question appears to be Ballard Street and the Town would have no authority to sell it but only to discontinue the right-of-way. See Plan P028A-0118 dated June 1987 below:



This 1987 plan does not provide any references to the discontinuance of Ballard Street.

** Also, I did not research all of the Town records prior to 1987 to see if there was a vote to discontinue the road. The 1989 ordinance does not reference any discontinuance nor does any of my other research or plans reviewed.