

From: [Michael Behrendt](#)
To: [Tracey Cutler](#)
Subject: Letter WEBSITE
Date: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 5:49:39 PM

Tracey,

Please place Janet's letter on the website for housing. Thanks.

Michael Behrendt

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

From: Janet Perkins-Howland <thehowl@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2024 1:44 PM
To: Michael Behrendt <mbehrendt@ci.durham.nh.us>
Subject: Letter

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Hi Michael, would you be so kind as to distribute my letter to members of the Durham Housing Task Force and Planning Board.

Thanks,
Janet

Dear members of the Durham Planning Board and Housing Task Force,

I am following the ongoing discussions about housing in Durham with great interest. These are complex and sometimes complicated issues, and as a resident who cares deeply about our Town, I appreciate all your work and efforts. You're doing a fantastic job, and we owe you a debt of gratitude.

I hate hearing some of the language used to describe who we should "invite" into our Town, or which "type" of people deserve more attention. This is

antithetical to who we purport to be: a welcoming community. Increasing the diversity of our Town would only strengthen its appeal. When we put strict limits on who gets an invitation to live here, we become hypocrites.

Instead, I like to think about the many exciting opportunities for Durham to lead the way in sustainable and eco-friendly housing, as well as housing for vulnerable populations such as those with disabilities. Dover has an exciting new example of this kind of housing at 105 Durham Road, sponsored by Our Place NH. They even offer a toolkit for similar projects! Transitional housing for those who have been recently unhoused, or folks recovering from substance use disorder are other examples.

It would be nice to think of our Town as a leader in these efforts, and not a Town that is left behind by those communities that surround us. I don't think I'm alone when I say I want to live in a town that shares its riches, and helps a variety of folks find a place to live and thrive here. In short, a welcoming community.

There's also lots of discussion about reluctance to give up green space, or how building houses would destroy our gateways and open spaces. It is, indeed, possible for us to find tasteful, ecological, and sustainable sources of housing for more than just those of us who already have the privilege to call Durham home.

We do have what it takes, including (but not limited to) visionary people like yourselves.

We can do this.

And we should.

Thanks,
Janet Perkins-Howland
32 Frost Dr