

March 21, 2017

Sean Starkey, Chair
Zoning Board of Adjustment
Town of Durham

Dear Mr. Starkey and ZBA members:

I write with regard to Tom Toyé's application for a variance for 9 Tavern Way (the former Mill Pond Center) from Article XII, Section 175-53 of the Durham zoning ordinance (Table of Uses).

I was very pleased to learn that the Toyés had taken this step to advance the discussion of possible community uses of their wonderful property. Like many Durham residents, I have enjoyed a variety of events and classes at Mill Pond Center over the years; I also did some work at the Center during the past decade, planning and putting on art shows.

Not long after the Toyés moved to Mill Pond, I stopped by to visit. Despite the fact that they were in the midst of the major project of turning the historic main building into a family home, they took the time to talk about the potential future of the property as a whole. I was encouraged by their appreciation for the role the Mill Pond Center has played in the cultural life of Durham and their apparent willingness to entertain ideas for future expanded use of the property—once they got a bit more settled!

As I wrote to the Toyés in a recent email, I look forward to learning more specifically about the kinds of activities and enterprises that they may have in mind for the property—the application's description of proposed uses being quite broad—and I am more than happy to participate as a community member in future relevant discussions, if and when appropriate.

Sincerely,

Amanda Merrill
8 Meadow Rd.