

From: [Wendy Gibson](#)
To: [Karen Edwards](#)
Subject: Development proposal for 74 Main Street
Date: Monday, October 08, 2018 11:23:41 AM

October 8,

2018

Dear Ms. Edwards,

We are writing to you to express our support for Doug Clark's development proposal for 74 Main Street. We have been Durham residents since 2001 and are both UNH college graduates from the class of 1989. Additionally, Wendy moved to Durham in 1977 and graduated from ORHS in 1985.

We moved to Durham in 2001 to raise our two children in a town that offered a great school system and dynamic, family friendly downtown that balanced the needs of the adult residential community with the UNH student populace. However, over the years Durham's downtown development seems to have forgotten about the needs of the permanent residential community.

Areas once occupied by residential families and adults have disappeared. Businesses that once addressed the needs of the residents (as well as students) have also disappeared and been replaced by an ever increasing number of pizza joints and other fast food establishments that cater to the student population. Gone are the residential areas and the downtown family-friendly establishments that Wendy grew up with and what we moved back here for in 2001. Today, as Durham residents there is little reason for us to venture downtown. Instead we visit the surrounding towns of Newmarket, Dover, Newington and Portsmouth when we have to run errands, go out as a family or want to have a nice meal.

With Doug Clark's proposal, Durham has opportunity to create something that is missing and needed in the downtown district. We strongly feel this development addresses a dire need for affordable and conveniently located adult housing and a unique restaurant experience that will be attractive to residents and students alike. The proposed event space will also cater equally to local businesses, town residents and UNH faculty and staff, providing more opportunity and reasons to frequent downtown. Additionally, the inclusion of the parking garage within this plan would help to address one of the most significant issues Durham residents and businesses alike currently have to deal with.

We believe Doug Clark's proposal will provide a vital and positive contribution to the continued revitalization of Durham's downtown area. As long time residents of Durham we implore you to accept the nominal variances required to allow Doug Clark's proposed development to come to fruition.

Sincerely,

Mark and Wendy Gibson

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Durham, NH

(603)868-1417

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10