

September 10, 2019

Zoning Board of Adjustment
8 Newmarket Road
Durham, NH 03824

RE: Petition submitted by Richard H. Lord, Durham, New Hampshire for an APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE from Article XX, Section 175-109(O), Porkchop Subdivision, of the Durham Zoning Ordinance to permit relief from the frontage requirement on a previously approved porkchop subdivision. The properties involved are shown on Tax Map 17, Lots 53-10 & 53-11, are located at 9 Sullivan Falls Road and 11 Sullivan Falls Road respectively, and are in the Rural Zoning District.

Dear Members of the Board,

I urge the Board to grant the request the variance referenced above. I attended the January 28, 2019 meeting of the Conservation Commission at which the Nature Conservancy presented a case for protecting two nearby parcels of land, one of which comprises the two properties under discussion tonight.

I have read the application and concluded that the applicant clearly laid out a set of persuasive, cogent arguments, so I would like to add comments only on the criterion of **public interest**.

Granting the variance would NOT be contrary to the public interest because:

- Scenic vistas—Decades ago, voters of Durham designated Bennett Road a Scenic Road. The Lamprey River, along which Bennett Road winds, is a nationally designated Wild and Scenic River, intensely protected by the Lamprey River Advisory Committee and the beneficiary of funds raised by residents of both Lee and Durham. To this day, residents and visitors enjoy uninterrupted stretches of beautiful vistas, lightening their hearts throughout the seasons, as they drive, run, walk, or bicycle along Bennett Road.
- Only the granting of this variance would make possible the purchase by the Nature Conservancy to protect the property in perpetuity. The protection of this property would connect currently fragmented conservation lands—one of the major goals of land trusts, thereby enhancing wildlife habitat and creating larger contiguous protected parcels, which are more valuable to the Town, in particular as they abut a waterbody. At the aforementioned Conservation Commission meeting, Dr. John Carroll, now a UNH professor emeritus in the Natural Resources & Environment department, spoke eloquently about the benefits of protecting the Lord tract. His expertise certainly outweighs mine.

Sincerely yours,

[Signed: Robin Mower]