

Letter to Newton City Council

TO: citycouncil@newtonma.gov

CC: dolson@newtonma.gov

Subject: Northland's Needham Street Project

Dear Councilors,

Northland's mixed-use proposal to build at the rundown parcel containing the Marshall's plaza, the former Saco-Pettee Mill, and the old Clark's shoe factory is great idea and I wholeheartedly endorse it. I hope to encourage the Council to vote favorably on what is a thoughtful, elegant design with a host of community benefits we simply can't walk away from.

The development will offer a nice balance of residential, commercial and retail space with both daytime and nighttime uses. In addition to bringing more retail to the area (and much needed housing and green space), the Mobility Hub will allow people in and around the site to have direct access to locations around Newton, along with a route to Cambridge and downtown Boston. This is an outstanding community benefit and relatively unprecedented for a development like this, as far as I understand.

The proposal also calls for a large community building. This will offer some leisure/work space for residents and their neighbors to enjoy. Local artists or small businesses might want to use that space as a pop-up shop or another venture that provides some programming opportunities for the neighborhood.

I think this project will be a great opportunity for Newton and a great addition to the communities of Upper Falls, Oak Hill, and the the Highlands

Thank you,

Anastasios Vrettos