

To: Newton's City Council

CC: Land Use Committee, David Olson City Clerk

Re: Needham Street Development

Please approve the proposal to redevelop the site around Marshalls in the Upper Falls. This site has been underutilized for years. Northland will transform this eyesoar into a beautiful mixed use development incorporating several acres of open greenspace for residents, workers, visitors, and nearby neighbors in Upper Falls, Oak Hill, and the Highlands.

It is my opinion that the 800 rental units and 115,000 square feet of retail space will help revitalize the area by bringing new rental and retail opportunities to the Upper Falls. The proposed transit mobility hub will offer residents of the Upper Falls access to new mass transit allowing for easy commuting to and from the site.

Most importantly, this project will generate 123 new affordable housing units for Newton. Newton is one of the most expensive cities to live in the state, and Massachusetts is one of the most expensive states to live in the country. As housing prices continue to rise, working families are being left behind and are being forced to leave the city. This project won't solve the issue of affordability in Newton, but it is a step in the right direction.

Best wishes,



Ellen Meisel
15 Cynthia Road