

Honorable Newton City Councilors--

As a pro-development Newton voter, I am writing to the Land Use Committee and the Newton City Council to ask you to vote in favor of the Oak and Needham Street development that is being proposed by Northland Investment Corp. I am especially in support of two aspects of the proposed development: 1. Affordable housing and 2. Green building practices.

The allotment of land to be converted into this residential and retail development is under utilized and poorly maintained. Old shopping centers, parking lots, scraggly brush and just about everything else about this location does little to add value to our city. With the proposed development in place, not only will this eyesore of our community be revitalized into green space, walkable retail shops, and parks, but it also can provide an invaluable resource to our community in affordable housing. The Northland development will build just shy of 125 affordable living spaces for those neighbors who need them the most. It is our moral obligation to stand for equitable housing options in a city where the median house price is over \$1,000,000! Our children deserve to grow up in a diverse community like we did. Without affordable housing options, that will not happen.

This development is designed and will be built using LEED certification guidelines, will offer public transportation options to Boston and other Newton locations for all Newton residents, encouraging the reduction of our city's carbon footprint, and it will highlight and preserve surrounding natural resources, such as South Meadow Brook and the Upper Falls Greenway.

Please vote to pass the Northland development as it sets an important, smart-growth precedent for our city.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Morrison', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Janelle Morrison
176 Dorset Road
Waban, MA 02468