

Dear Members of the Land Use Committee and the Newton City Council,

I am a long-time resident of Newton, and I want my voice to be heard. There are not enough options for senior housing in Newton. Retired folks don't always want to keep-up a home with 3 or 4 bedrooms, but we shouldn't be forced to move from the city we love either.

There's a development being proposed for the area that is the old Marshalls plaza down by the Saco-Pettee machine shops that would include hundreds of rental apartments right on top of shops and right next to all sorts of parks and nice walking trails. That Upper Falls area could be beautiful if someone had vision for it, and I think these developers do. It would be a great space for families to live, and also for retired couples and individuals. It will be handicapped accessible, so as people get older and have more limitations they can continue to live on their own as long as possible. It would also provide a great community feel with places to get coffee and paths to walk on and get exercise and benches to sit and chat. I heard that over 120 of these apartments will qualify as affordable housing. This would be great for any seniors on a fixed income who would be forced to move from Newton because of how expensive it is to live here.

Also, they are going to build a transportation hub with shuttles to and from MBTA stations and into Boston. What a great situation this would be for people who don't want to drive, but still want to be able to get into the city to take advantage of great doctors and museums and events.

I think this development is the right thing to do, and I hope you'll hear me and others and support it in every way you can.

Thanks for your time,



Kelley Hadlow
Chestnut Hill