

Land Use Committee of the Newton City Council
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Dear Councilor Schwartz and Members of the Land Use Committee,

We all know Newton needs much more housing affordability than what is currently available. The average closing cost of a single family house in Newton typically hovers around a million dollars and even more as of late. While good for those looking to sell their home, this is not sustainable for those looking to live in Newton and do so without breaking the bank. Young professionals at the onset of their careers, who are an important part of the foundation of our local economy, are being forced from the city to seek more affordable rents elsewhere. The same problem is affecting seniors on the other end of the spectrum. Rents and cost of living has far outpaced increases in their fixed income. And many who saved for retirement decades ago are being caught unprepared for more and more expenses. Newton just does not have a reliable and affordable housing supply for these 2 important demographics. It is imperative for the long term economic health of Newton that we diversify our housing supply.

This is why I'm enthusiastically supporting Northland's effort to re-develop the large underutilized parcel they own on Needham Street. The new project would add 822 diverse housing units to our local market and we frankly needed those units yesterday. Let's approve this project as soon as we can to help alleviate the housing stress being placed on so many young professionals and seniors across Newton.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meghan Shea', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Meghan Shea

27 Warren Road