

Councilors,

As a Newton voter, I ask for your representation in favor of the Northland Investment Corporation development plan for the Needham Street and Oak Street area of Newton Upper Falls. The area is in need of some serious revitalization and general clean-up and is an inefficient use of space as it currently stands.

In the face of our federal government's negligent stance toward climate change, community-level support for initiatives that will foster a more responsible environmental ethic is vital to the overall health and sustainability of our cities. Approving Northland's proposal to provide over 800 residential units (all designed using the LEED-ND checklist) and a local business hub, while converting thirty percent of the land into city parks, a playground, greenspace, bike pathways, and connected pedestrian paths would demonstrate Newton's support of more sustainable living strategies. This new development would encourage the use of public transportation (especially for residents of the Highlands and Upper Falls villages) with shuttle service to local MBTA and commuter rail sites, as well as into Cambridge and South Station in Boston. Currently, only about thirteen percent of Newtonians commute to work via public transportation. Not only would this development provide greater access to public transportation and mitigate car usage for current residents, it would also attract residents who value greener transportation options (there's a bike space for each apartment) and a more environmentally conscious lifestyle.

Local jobs, local shopping, local business support, local living with walkable access to parks and green spaces and green transportation options in biking, busing and public transportation - The Garden City should embrace this project with open arms!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul M. Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" being the most prominent.

Paul M. Sullivan
80 Fenwick Rd.
Waban