

The Newton City Council
City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Dear Councilors,

As a resident of Newton, I am writing to express my support of the multi-use construction proposed by Northland for the underused shopping plaza abutting Needham Street, Oak Street and the Upper Falls Greenway. I recently learned of Northland's intentions to build 800 rental housing units, including 120 affordable housing units on the aforementioned portion of land largely made up of abandoned buildings and parking spaces. The development proposed by Northland will support Newton's progressive values in making accessible the largest allotment of affordable housing anywhere in Newton. These affordable housing rentals will allow our city to retain some of its vibrant diversity. The city desperately needs to keep in-sync with the issues and values of an increasingly diversified region, state, and nation. This obligation is made all the more important by what's happening in our national politics.

Additionally, constructing walkable venues for local business interspersed with green spaces and parks and highlighting the heritage of the city in the Saco-Pettee Mill (think The Armory in Charlestown or The Lynnfield Marketplace, but with more green space and incorporating older architecture), will attract small retailers and restaurateurs. This in turn provides more local employment opportunities for the very same people that need access to more affordable housing, further bolstering Newton's economy and culture. All of these aspects of the development will reduce the city's carbon footprint, support community-conscious local business, generate local tax dollars, and contribute to the desirability and marketability of this part of the city.

For these reasons and others: public transportation offerings; traffic reduction through mindful street design and promoted bicycle transportation; the huge amount of green space; please do move to support Northland's project.

Thanks for your leadership for our city,

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

Robert Schultz
63 Thurston Road