

The Newton City Council  
Land Use Committee  
ATTN: Councilor Schwartz & David Olson  
RE: Northland's Needham Street Development

Members of the Council:

I am a life-long resident of Newton and an "elder" member of our beloved city. I would like to express my support of the Northland development project that would affect, firstly, the Upper Falls and Highlands villages and, secondly, the rest of our city.

Across our country, 10,000 citizens turn 65 years old every day. I suspect Newton's piece of that number is substantially larger than other cities and towns. Now that I am a senior citizen myself, I recognize the challenges of finding suitable housing options as I approach a time in my life when I'd prefer to spend my money and time on something other than the upkeep of a large single-family home. Many of my friends and I have discussed the limited options for people in our stage of life who would like to downsize.

The Needham Street and Oak Street development project proposed by Northland would provide beautiful and efficient living spaces with easy-to-walk-to parks and shopping and means to get into Cambridge and Boston without a car. Most importantly, aging Newton residents could stay in Newton and not have to adjust to life in a completely different location. The friends I have, the places I love to visit and walks I like to take - they're all in Newton. It is so important to provide reasonable housing options within Newton for the people who have built up this place to be the wonderful city it is today.

I ask you to vote in favor of the Northland development project.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Reifsnyder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "R".

Robert Reifsnyder  
40 Fenwick Road  
Waban, MA 02468