

Dear Councilors,

It has come to my attention that local developer Northland Investment Corp. has introduced plans to redevelop the site at the intersection of Oak Street and Needham Street in the Upper Falls into a mixed use development. It will consist of approximately 800 housing units, a good amount of retail space, and repurpose the Saco Pette Mill into premier office space. This project would represent a night and day improvement to the area.

This project is vital for Newton as it supplies the City with a large number of affordable housing units and we need every one of them. Today the average costs of a 2 bedroom apartment is around \$2,500.00 and increasing. This growth is not sustainable and is putting increased pressure on the working and middle class in the City. By increasing the housing supply in Newton, downward pressure will be placed on housing prices causing the city as a whole to become more affordable. The affordable housing units will also serve as a safety net to residents at highest risk of being displaced due to the high cost of living.

It is absolutely clear that Massachusetts is changing and new obstacles and opportunities are arriving every day. To clear these obstacles and take full advantage of the opportunities this economy is presenting, Newton must adapt. I believe Northlands project is a step in the right direction in that context

Thank you,



Shelley Barron
Newton (Oak Hill Park)