

Newton City Council - Land Use Committee

CC: David Olson, City Clerk

Newton City Hall

1000 Commonwealth Ave

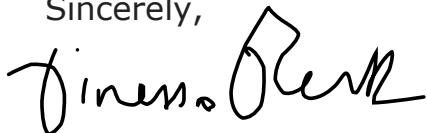
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Dear Councilors,

I believe Northland has proposed an excellent plan to build a mixed use development near the intersections of Oak Street and Needham Street. New housing, shops, restaurants, and parks will be a far better use of this space than what currently exists. This area is very unsightly today and I would argue it's one of the worst eyesores in all of Newton. By redeveloping the lot into a well-designed complement of mixed use buildings and open green spaces, we could truly maximize the potential of this neighborhood.

Newton is one of the most expensive cities in Massachusetts, and as housing costs continue to rise, staying here is becoming more and more daunting for wide swaths of Newton's population. We're already witnessing a "mass exodus" of lifelong neighbors who can no longer fit Newton in their budget. I personally know many people who have moved to Waltham or Watertown where rents and homes are less expensive. This does not need to be the case. We can and should encourage more affordable housing and make the process less complex for developers who seek to build it. This development will meet that goal head-on and breathe new life into the Needham Street corridor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vinessa Trask". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and "T".

Vinessa Trask

12 Elliot Terrace

Newton, MA