

To the Land Use Committee:

The twenty-three acre lot surrounding encompassing the Marshalls Plaza on Needham Street has been a prime site for redevelopment for quite some time. Currently the area consists of the Saco-Petee Mill, the Marshalls Plaza along with a number of condemned, structurally-compromised warehouses. Anything done to this site would be a substantial improvement to what exists there currently.

Northland Investment Corporation has submitted a proposal to build a mixed use, smart-growth development on this site. It will include over seven acres of open green space, offering nice, walkable leisure opportunities for residents and neighbors. This open green space will help attract local residents to this site to shop or enjoy a meal. The 800 housing units located above the retail space will similarly feed local retailers while offering renters convenience to shop and easy access to Rt. 128.

Lastly, Northland will be providing the city with 123 affordable rental units. This is something Newton is in dire need of. Senior on fixed incomes (as well as young professionals) are having a harder and harder time staying in Newton as housing costs increase. Developments like this may serve as a part of the solution to this troubling issue. I ask that you support Northlands efforts to redevelop this location.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Barron". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being more prominent than the last name "Barron".

William Barron
Newton (Oak Hill)