

**From:** Bernadette Feeney

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 15, 2022 11:14 AM

**To:** Marcia Rasmussen <[mrasmussen@concordma.gov](mailto:mrasmussen@concordma.gov)>

**Cc:** Hayleigh Walker <[hwalker@concordma.gov](mailto:hwalker@concordma.gov)>; Planning <[planningdivision@concordma.gov](mailto:planningdivision@concordma.gov)>

**Subject:** 615 Lowell Road

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To the Concord Historic District Commission,

My name is Bernadette Feeney; I live at 616 Lowell Road. I am writing concerning the proposed development across the street from my home, at 615 Lowell Road. Since I am sure that many others are reaching out to you regarding the same development, I will try to keep my message as brief as possible. I am also conscious of the fact that many of you agree with the community that has emerged to defend Hildreth Corner and preserve the historic character and appeal of the Barrett Farm Historic District. In its past actions, both generally and specifically regarding the development on Lowell Road, the Historic District Commission has admirably stayed true to its organization's principles and supported the public's wellbeing. Your determination and dedication, in past meetings as well as in the future, are crucial to the social wellbeing and function of our community.

Since moving to Concord more than a decade ago, I have grown to admire the passion and independence with which the Historic District Commission has consistently operated. From my own experience and from observing the rest of the town as it has grown and evolved, it is clear that the Historic District Commission is impelled by its commitment to preserving the qualities and character that make Concord a vibrant and inspiring place to have a home, raise a family, or visit.

There are historic houses and churches, battlefields from the Revolutionary War, and thriving shop-lined town centers all over New England. Something makes Concord one-of-a-kind, and it's not only my family or our neighbors and other residents who feel this way. In large part because of the Historic District Commission, our town has achieved a perfect balance of historic preservation mixed with conscientious development when and where it is necessary.

I appreciate that Concord is a welcoming town and invites people and businesses to participate in the local economy when appropriate for everybody concerned. But the Historic Commission knows better than anyone else that the character of our town — the vitality and knowledge and engagement of its residents, its natural beauty and environmental health, the historic sites that tourists from all over come to visit — relies on the enduring vigilance of the community.

From the Barrett Farm, North Bridge, and Old Manse to the Emerson, Alcott, and Hawthorne Houses and more, we have a truly remarkable and distinct historic inheritance. This is why the stakes of permitting the development at Hildreth Corner are high. While my house is directly across from 615 Lowell Road and our lives will be disproportionately impacted by the development, I am troubled by repeated external efforts to profit financially at the cost of the exact thing that makes our community so unique. With so many places of significant sites in Concord, all with backyards and places across the streets and viewsheds where one *could* develop, a single ill-advised construction could imperil the rest of the entire town.

In the advocacy, people from across Concord have come together, making their objection to the development exceedingly clear because as part of our collective responsibility to preserve what

makes Concord so important to us and the world. As I hope I have expressed in this letter, I thank the Historic District Commission for the efforts it has undertaken thus far to assert its resolve, the value of its founding principles, and its independence from the influence of commercial interest. I believe that the stakes here exceed how the development would undermine the historic, natural, and aesthetic integrity of Hildreth Corner. Sanctioning this construction would set a dangerous precedent for more and more development in other locations and would diminish public faith in our town's ability to continue to preserve our historical inheritance and charm. I am grateful for how the Historic District Commission has respected its immense responsibility and I support its efforts thus far to maintain Hildreth Corner's appearance and history for ourselves and the future. I heartily encourage those with this responsibility to consider what distinguishes our community and what we hope to pass on to the future in its upcoming decision.

Sincerely,  
Bernadette Feeney

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