

TOWN OF DURHAM



Office of the First Selectman

P. O. Box H

Durham, Connecticut 06422

December 2, 1981

The Planning and Zoning Commission
Town Hall
Durham, CT 06422

Dear Commission Members:

In response to your request of November 28, 1981, for a formal answer to your submission of October 5, 1981, I would first like to review what has already transpired.

1. The Board of Selectmen voted on June 11, 1981, to ask your commission to accept two additional appointments by us to your ad hoc committee to study elderly housing.
2. The Board of Selectmen voted at its July 9, 1981, meeting recognition of a need for elderly housing in Durham. That action was brought to your attention in a September 3, 1981, letter from Maryann Boord.
3. Both Maryann and I publicly expressed our support for Planning and Zoning adoption of zoning regulations that will permit elderly housing in Durham. This is a matter of record of the October 7, 1981, hearing held by your commission.
4. At the time we received your October 5, 1981, letter, the November election was imminent. Because of the possibility of a change in the make up and philosophy of the Board, I deterred action until after the election.
5. Since that time, you, as a Planning and Zoning Commission, have chosen to prepare your own commission sponsored regulations which you have scheduled for presentation to the public at a hearing on December 16, 1981.

Now, therefore, the Board of Selectmen resolve that:

- 1.- Irrespective of any committee the Board of Selectmen may empower to further define or resolve specific needs of the elderly, the responsibility for land use decisions relating to elderly housing rest solely with the Planning and Zoning Commission as prescribed by the Statutes of this State. We trust that your commission will deal fairly, and in the best

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interest of Durham when considering this issue as you have so many times in the past.

2. It is the plan of this Board of Selectmen to work primarily through the existing town Boards, Commissions, and Agencies in evaluation of the applicability of various programs that may be available to assist Durham's elderly. In that regard, the Board has already agreed to establish a study committee in accordance with Section 12-129n of the Connecticut General Statutes to make a recommendation to the Board of Finance concerning local property tax relief for the elderly.

Sincerely,

M. Foster Mather, DVM
First Selectman

MFM:dmw