

Amy Harvey

From: Jeanette Coffin
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 1:52 PM
To: the oldhceme
Cc: Colleen Willger; Allen Buansi; Amy Ryan; Hongbin Gu; Jeanne Brown; Jess Anderson; Karen Stegman; Michael Parker; Pam Hemminger; Tai Huynh; Amy Harvey; Ann Anderson; Carolyn Worsley; Flo Miller; Laura Selmer; Mary Jane Nirdlinger; Maurice Jones; Rae Buckley; Ran Northam; Ross Tompkins; Sabrina Oliver
Subject: RE: Council Petition for Commercial Columbarium in Old Chapel Cemetery

Thank you for your correspondence with the Town of Chapel Hill. The Mayor and Town Council are interested in what you have to say. By way of this email, I am forwarding your message to the Mayor and each of the Council Members, as well as to the appropriate staff person who may be able to assist in providing additional information or otherwise addressing your concerns.

Again, thank you for your message.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Coffin



Jeanette Coffin
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From: the oldhceme [mailto:oldhceme@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 1:20 PM
To: Town Council <mayorandcouncil@townofchapelhill.org>
Subject: Council Petition for Commercial Columbarium in Old Chapel Cemetery

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I strongly oppose the petition being proposed to Council for commercial development of a columbarium within the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery, and would request it be rejected without further consideration.

The premise presented in the petition that there is a dire need for a columbarium entities in Chapel Hill is not correct. Currently there are ample available columbarium entities at Memorial Cemetery and the design allows development of columbarium sites to meet the towns needs for the foreseeable future. There is no "need" for columbarium entities in Chapel Hill.

Second, I must strongly object for the use of plots in Old Chapel Cemetery for commercial development. Although plots owned the the Old Cemetery allow wide discretion for use and resale for owners, I doubt the ability to use plots for outright commercial development.

Third, this type of commercial development may imperil the Old Cemetery's listing in the National Register of Historic Places, a unique honor for the town and cemetery residents. The unique status of the historic listing in not based on commercial development.

Fourth, I have plots in proximity in the Old Cemetery and find the visual of this new development totally unacceptable and distasteful. Although I have no plans to sell my plots, this commercial development could negatively impact the market value of my plots and hurt me financially.

Fifth, since the town incurs permanent upkeep costs for all plots in the Cemetery, the long term costs to the town could be substantial for such a development, especially since the location is within a major rainwater runoff area and its long term potential for water damage costs may also be substantial.

Sixth, approval of this development will allow similar potential for the 20% of plots that are owned but currently unoccupied. If this is approved, then all other undeveloped areas must be handled the same for commercial development.

I ask that this petition be rejected outright without any further consideration.

Steve Moore

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Steve Moore, Chair

Friends of Old Chapel Hill Cemetery